29th March
Chinese government has decided to write off $18 million debt that Afghan government owes to it. (Online)

The Dutch banking group ING has become the third foreign bank to open branch in Kabul. ING is managing Afghanistan International Bank on behalf of a consortium of Afghan and US investors. (NNI)

31st March
According to Afghan Environment Minister, only 12% residents of Kabul have access to clean drinking water. (AP)

UN has appealed for $60 million in aid to support the farming sector in Afghanistan. (APP)

Political Developments

1st March
According to UN spokesman, so far 1,170,382 Afghans have been registered as voters in phase-1 of the voter's registration campaign. (Agencies)

4th March
Afghan presidential candidate Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq has accused certain forces of threatening him to withdraw from the elections. (PPI)

5th March
President Karzai has sacked the Mayor of Kabul, Mohammad Anwar Jagdalak, amid growing complaints of bribery and land grabbing against the mayor. (Agencies)

6th March
Abdul Wali Zadran, son of former Governor of Paktia, has been appointed the head of Wazi Zadran district in Paktia province. (AFP)

7th March
Six political parties, with no links to any military force, have applied for registration to contest the upcoming general elections in Afghanistan. (NNI)

10th March
Afghan planning Minister and presidential candidate has denied the government claims that he has resigned from the ministry. He said he was sacked by the government due to his differences with President Karzai and the Finance Minister. (AFP)

13th March
Tribal leaders in Paktika province pledged to support establishment of peace and security in border areas and stop entry of unauthorized persons into Afghanistan. (Agencies)

14th March
The British Foreign Secretary has said that his country will oppose inclusion of senior Taliban leaders in the future Afghan government. (Agencies)

Afghan government has established ten centers in Kandahar for registration of voters for the up coming general elections. (Agencies)

16th March
Afghan President has replaced governors of Takhar, Badakhshan, Samangan, Kunduz, Baghlan and Logar provinces. (NNI)

Afghan Ministry of Justice has approved rules and regulations for registration of political parities for the upcoming general elections. (Agencies)

18th March
Afghan Justice Ministry have given permission to five more political parties to contest the upcoming general elections. (Agencies)

Afghan President Karzai has hinted that the Afghan general elections may not be held as scheduled in June 2004. Talking to reports he said that the election may be held in June, July or August, depending on the preparations. (AP)

21st March
Afghan government has appointed Hakimullah as Deputy Governor of Zabul Province replacing Mohammad Omar. (Agencies)

26th March
President Karzai has told western diplomats in Kabul that he intends to delay the Afghan general election until September 2004. (Agencies)

27th March
A spokesman for Taliban has denied reports that Taliban are in negotiations with US officials and has claimed that Taliban have regrouped and will continue its fight against foreign forces in Afghanistan. (NNI)

28th March
Afghanistan's general elections, originally planned for June 2004, have been postponed by Afghan government till September 2004 because arrangements for elections and voters registration could not be completed in time for June. (Agencies)

In a report to the Security Council, UN Secretary General has called for another 12 month extension in United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). (NNI)

29th March
UNAMA chief has hailed Afghan government decision to postpone the election until September

2004, adding that the extra three months will allow them to better prepare for the elections. (Agencies)

A team of Afghan government arrived in Herat to investigate the killing of Aviation Minister and subsequent factional fighting that killed 100 people. (Reuters)

31st March
A Taliban spokesman has denied reports that Taliban leader Mulla Mohammad Omar was injured in a US air strike. (NNI)

Security Matters

1st March
A total of 4,832 soldiers have been demobilized under the DDR process in Kunduz, Gardez, Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. (Agencies)

2nd March
One person was killed and 3 injured in clash between Afghan Army recruits and participants of Muharram procession in Kabul. (AP)

Four militia commanders suspected of killing their rival militia commanders have been arrested in Mazar-e-Sharif. (PPI)

4th March
20,000 Afghan police officers are being trained for election duties under an international effort led by US and Germany. (PPI)

5th March
US and Afghan forces have blocked all roads leading to Tora Bora region. (AFP)

ISAF and Afghan forces have launched largest ever operation to prevent terrorist from entering Kabul by setting up check posts and carrying out searches. (AFP)

7th March
A Turkish Engineer and an Afghan security guard were killed and another Turkish engineer along with the Afghan translator were kidnapped by suspected Taliban fighters in Zabul. (Agencies)

US and Afghan forces have killed 9 Taliban fighters and captured another 14 in clashes in Khost and Paktia. (AFP)

8th March
Head of the Afghan Red Crescent in Zabul was shot dead by unidentified gunmen near Qalat, the capital of Zabul province. Security forces have arrested eight suspects in this connection. (AFP/NNI)

9th March
A mine explosion near a military convoy in Oruzgan province killed three civilians and injured another six. (Agencies)

10th March
A group of bomb disposal experts from Estonian armed forces will be arriving at Kabul to join the international peacekeeping forces. (NNI)

11th March
A US military base in Kunar was attacked with rockets and machine guns by unidentified militants. One bystander was killed in the attack. (AP)

12th March
President Karzai has called on NATO to provide extra troops for maintaining security during the Afghan presidential elections scheduled for June 2004. (PPI)

13th March
Two Turkish engineers, kidnapped in December last year near Kabul, have been freed following a raid by Afghan Police and anti terrorist units. (AFP)

Armed clashes erupted between Madakhel tribe living in Waziristan on Pakistani side of the border and Tanarai tribe living on Afghan side of the border over a land dispute. No loss of life has been reported. (The Nation)

Iran and Afghanistan signed a security agreement that provides for cooperation in border protection and fight against drug trafficking. (AFP)

14th March
US troops launched a new operation – Mountain Storm – against Al Qaeeda and Taliban fighters in south and southeast Afghanistan. (AFP)

15th March
US troops have captured three Taliban leaders in Zabul and killed twelve Taliban fighters in Kandahar province. (Online)

18th March
Taliban have appointed Mulla Dadullah as the new chief of operations for southern Afghanistan. Dadullah will replace Hafiz Abdul Rahim who was killed along with 14 of his colleagues in a US air raid in December. (AFP)

19th March
Military officials from Pakistan, Afghanistan and ISAF met in Jalalabad to discuss the security situation along Pak-Afghan border and the war on terrorism. (Online)

Rockets were fired at a compound in Paktia, where a UN voters registration team was staying. No one was injured in the attack. (Reuters)

20th March
Two US soldiers were killed and two more were injured in a clash with anti-coalition forces in Oruzgan province. Five attackers were also killed in the encounter. (Agencies)

Britain has sent 100 Special Forces soldiers to Afghanistan to participate in the hunt for senior Al Qaeeda leadership. (Agencies)

21st March
Three suspected Taliban fighters were killed in a clash with US troops in Birmal District of Paktika. (AP)

22nd March
An unmanned Canadian spy plane made a crash landing in a field near Kabul, while a German unmanned spy plane crash landed in the lawns of Presidential Palace in Kabul. No one was inured in the incidents. (PPI)

A group of 100 Jordanian Special Forces troops arrived in Afghanistan. They will be deployed in the southeastern part of the country along the Pakistani border. (AFP)

Five suspected Taliban fighters were killed and large amount of weapons recovered during a raid by US troops on a compound in Oruzgan. (Agencies)

Afghan Army and ISAF troops raided a bomb making factory in Kabul, arresting one person and recovering a cache of explosives and timing devices. (AFP)

Up to 100 people were killed in factional fighting in Herat following the assassination of Mirwais Sadiq, Afghan Aviation Minister and son of Herat's Governor Ismail Khan. (AFP)

23rd March
Coalition forces have killed four persons in Paktia Province, after they attacked coalition military base with rockets. (Online)

24th March
President Karzai has sent 1500 Afghan National Army troops to Herat in an effort to control the factional fighting that erupted following the assassination of the Aviation Minister, Mirwais Sadiq. (NNI)

25th March
Four Afghan soldiers were killed and four Afghan and four US soldiers were injured in an accidental blast during a training exercise in Gardez. (AP)

26th March
Three men arrested by authorities in connection with the assassination of Aviation Minister Miwais Sadiq, have confessed to the attack that killed the minister. (Agencies)

27th March
USA will send 2,000 marines with special operations training to join 11,000 US forces already in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

The First contingent of 100 Czech special forces troops left for deployment in Afghanistan. (AFP)

28th March
Final phase of disarmament of Kabul was launched by Afghan forces with dozens of tanks and artillery pieces taken out of Kabul. (AP)

29th March
Two Afghan soldiers were killed, 3 injured and 10 are missing in a Taliban raid on an Army post in Oruzgan.

6 people were wounded in a rocket attack on a restaurant in Khost. In another incident, also in Khost, a suicide bomber was killed when his bomb went off prematurely. (Reuters)

New Zealand will be sending 50 special operation troops into Afghanistan to join the hunt for Al Qaeeda and Taliban fighters. (Online)

30th March
Spain has announced that it will double the number of its troops in Afghanistan to 250 in the summer this year. (AP)

Hungry is sending 21 more soldiers to Afghanistan bringing the total number of Hungarian troops in Afghanistan to 31. (NNI)

31st March
US troops shot dead a suspected suicide bomber in Jalalabad after he drove his car full of explosives into a US military convey. The car did not explode on impact and no US soldier was injured in the incident. (Online)

Other News

1st March
A large number of teachers in Khost, who have not been paid salaries for the last several months have threatened to resign if they were not paid their salaries soon. (PPI)

2nd March
Afghan soldiers have destroyed a drugs factory and confiscated hundreds of kilograms of narcotics in a crackdown in Khogyani district of Nangarhar. Two persons were arrested in the raid. (AFP)

4th March
UNHCR has resumed its Voluntary Repatriation Programme for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. (PPI)

8th March
The Human Rights Watch has accused US military forces in Afghanistan of human rights violations including mistreatment of detainees, arbitrarily detaining civilians, and use of excessive force. (AFP)

9th March
UNAMA and Afghan Defence Ministry have stopped payment to demobilized soldiers under DDR programme after extortion attempts by regional commanders. (AFP)

10th March
UNHCR has started the relocation of refugees from Shalman Camp in Khyber Agency to Kotkai Camp in Bajur Agency. Shalman Camp will be closed down by end of March, with roughly half the 10,000 refugees in the camp population opting to relocate to Kotaki camp while others have opted to repatriate to Afghanistan. (The News)

11th March
US military has said that US troops followed proper rules of engagement during an air strike in Ghazni in which nine children were killed. However, the details of the findings of an investigation into an air strike will not be made public. (AP)

12th March
Afghanistan's former King Zahir Shah returned to Kabul after treatment in India for an abdominal complaint. (AP)

17th March
US authorities have released twenty three Afghan prisoners from Gautanamo Bay prison camp. (Agencies)

18th March
UNHCR has started its repatriation programme for Afghan refugees in Quetta, originally scheduled for March 1, after a two weeks delay due to adverse security situation there. (Online)

20th March
WHO has warned that tuberculoses is spreading with an alarming rate in Afghanistan, with about 70,000 new cases every year. (NNI)

21st March
UNHCR has closed Shalman refugee camp at Khyber Agency as part of its camps consolidation efforts. 4,078 residents of Shalman Camp were repatriated to Afghanistan while another 4,812 opted to be relocated to Kotkai Camp at Bajuar Agency. (APP)

22nd March
The Afghan new year – Now Roz – was celebrated all over Afghanistan to mark the beginning of solar year 1383. (NNI)

23rd March
UNESCO will build a cultural complex at the site of giant Buddha statues in Bamyan, destroyed by Taliban in 2001. (Online)

24th March
An estimated 1.5 millions new students have enrolled in schools at the beginning of Afghan school year, increasing the total number of enrolled students to 5.5 millions. (NNI)

25th March
More than 2500 POMZ2 mines stockpiled by Afghan Defence Ministry will be melted down and recycled to be made into various metal objects for daily use. (AFP)

27th March
According to a UNODC report, Afghanistan is producing more than two thirds of the world's opium supply. Opium is produces in 28 out of 32 provinces of Afghanistan. (NNI)

UNICEF has initiated a number of workshops all over Afghanistan for getting support of religious leaders for UNICEF's initiatives regarding female education and health. (NNI)

31st March
Hundreds of Afghan security forces raided 30 heroin factories in Nangarhar, arresting 30 people and confiscating large quantities of drugs. (AP)

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News Summary for April-2004

Aid and Economic Development

1st April
Donors has pledged $8.2 billion in aid to Afghanistan over the next three years. The pledges were made during the International Donor's Conference for Afghanistan held in Berlin, Germany. (Agencies)

Japan has pledged further $400 million in aid to Afghanistan over the next two years. (APP)

2nd April
Australia has committed an extra $19 million for the humanitarian and reconstruction aid in Afghanistan. (AFP)

Afghan government has imposed 20% tax on building rents of more than 15,000 Afghanis. (Online)

3rd April
FAO has appealed for $60 million aid for developing agriculture sector in Afghanistan and providing alternatives to poppy cultivation. (APP)

4th April
China has announced that it will write off $18 million debt that Afghanistan owes to it. (NNI)

6th April
About 400 farmers in Herat have begun to grow saffron – the most expensive spice in the world – as an alternative to poppy cultivation. (Agencies)

11th April
Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan have signed an agreement for cooperation in transportation sector. (Agencies)

12th April
Afghan government has directed provincial authorities to stop import of chicken from neighboring countries due to spread of bird flu epidemic in Afghanistan. (NNI)

US is planning to connect Afghanistan with Central Asian countries, Pakistan and India by extending the newly reconstructed Kabul-Kandahar Highway. (NNI)

16th April
Pakistan based Habib Bank Limited opened its branch in Kabul. (The Nation)

17th April
Afghan government has imposed property tax in the country for the first time in nearly two decades. (Agencies)

19th April
The two-day Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting was held in Kabul – the first international conference held in Kabul in two decades – in which delegates from Central Asian republics, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan participated. (AFP)

24th April
Third Emergency locust control campaign started in Kunduz, Baghlan and Samangan provinces. The campaign is executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, supported by FAO and GOAL NGO. (NNI)

A comprehensive health clinic built by World Vision, an International NGO, has started operations in Pada district of Baghdis. (Online)

Political Developments

7th April
President Karzai has ordered the release of 13 Taliban prisoners, including some Pakistani nationals, from Shebrghan Prison. (APP)

9th April
Taliban have warned Afghans not to take part in the upcoming general elections, or be ready to face the consequences. (Online)

11th April
UN Secretary General Kofi Anan has appointed Cherif Bassiouni, a law professor at DePaul University

Chicago, USA, as an independent expert on human rights in Afghanistan. (Online)

Abdul Rashid Dostum has warned President Karzai to fire his defence and interior ministers, otherwise his government will fall, saying that the two ministers are only interested in extending their own power. (Agencies)

12th April

Afghan government is encouraging Afghan refugees living in neighboring countries to register as voters for upcoming general elections. A joint UNHCR – Electoral Management Body mission has visited Pakistan in this regard and a second mission will visit Iran soon. (NNI)

13th April

Nine Pakistanis were released from Afghan prisons as a goodwill gesture. (AFP/AP)

14th April

Arbab Abdul Hadi Khalilzai, a former Afghan technocrat, has announced that he will run for president in the upcoming Afghan presidential elections. (The Nation)

Representatives of Kuchis (Nomads) of Afghanistan have demanded that the government should setup mobile voter registration centers for them. (Agencies)

15th April

Bismillah Bismil has been appointed as the Aviation Minister by the Afghan Government. (PPI)

Pakistan's President Musharraf has told UNAMA chief in a meeting in Islamabad that Pakistan wants to see an ethnic balance in Afghanistan's political and electoral process. (AFP)

16th April

Gen. Dostum has denied that his troops were involved in recent disturbances in Faryab and termed crisis as a spontaneous uprising against the Governor of Faryab. (NNI)

Some 200 persons protested against president Karzai in Kabul, denouncing him over his willingness to negotiate with some Taliban leaders. (APP)

180 metric tonnes of election material arrived in Kabul, which will be used in the upcoming Afghan general elections. (AP)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers arrived on a four day visit to Kabul, where he will meet top officials, including President Karzai. (AFP)

17th April

Afghan President Karzai has called upon the regional commanders to turn in their weapons and help expedite the disarmament process. (NNI)

20th April

Pakistan has dismissed the remarks of US ambassador to Afghanistan in which he had stated that AL Qaeeda and Taliban have save sanctuaries in Pakistan. (The Nation)

21st April

Afghan President Karzai has ordered a reduction in the size of the Cabinet and clarification of the responsibilities of each ministry. (PPI)

23rd April

A Taliban commander, Mulla Dadullah, has claimed that Taliban control 26 rural districts in south and southeastern Afghanistan. (The News)

Thousands of supporters of Padshah Khan Zadran held a demonstration in Khost, demanding a role in administration by Zadran tribe. (AFP)

26th April

President Karzai has said that he only considers about 150 top Taliban leaders to be criminals and asked rest of the Taliban to join the mainstream. He added that his government is in negotiations with moderate Taliban for months. (Agencies)

29th April

A leading Afghan religious scholar and head of his own faction of Hizb-e-Islami, Maulvi Younis Khalis, has called upon Afghans to start a holy war against US forces in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

30th April

According to Al-Jazeera TV, Taliban have taken control of a district in Oruzgan province. (The Frontier Post)

Security Matters

1st April

A WFP compound in Faizabad, Badakhshan was hit by rocket, slightly damaging the building but no one was injured in the attack. (APP)

Two Afghan soldiers were killed in an attack by suspected Taliban fighters in Kandahar. (AFP)

Afghan forces during raids on heroine factories in Nangarhar province, destroyed 40 heroine factories, arrested 30 persons and confiscated large quantities of drugs. (APP)

2nd April
The US Ambassador to Afghanistan has unveiled a plan according to which 100,000 Afghan militiamen will be disarmed and demobilized by June 2005 in a phased programme. (The Frontier Post)

The first batch of 2,000 US marines arrived in Afghanistan to join the hunt for Al Qaeeda and Taliban fighters. (AFP)

4th April
NATO has approved the plans for expansion its troops in Afghanistan beyond Kabul with establishment of PRTs in five Northern cities by June 2004. (Agencies)

5th April
Coalition troops have arrested commander Ammanullah, head of Hizb-i-Islami in Wardak province. He is accused of supporting anti-government forces. (Agencies)

Two home made bombs planted on Kabul – Jalalabad Road were diffused by ISAF troops. (Agencies)

7th April
Two Taliban fighters were killed when the mine they were laying in Deh Rawud district of Oruzgan exploded prematurely. (Reuters)

8th April
Abdul Hadi, a senior Taliban commander was arrested during a raid in Kabul conducted by Afghan and ISAF forces. (PPI)

Hundreds of militia troops loyal to Abdul Rashid Dostum launched an assault on Frayab from neighboring provinces, in a bid to drive out forces loyal to a rival commander and Faryab's governor. (AP)

9th April
Three Afghan soldiers and three Taliban fighters were killed and US soldier injured in a clash in Helmand province. (Agencies)

10th April
Afghan government ordered forces loyal to Abdul Rashid Dostum, who have occupied most of Faryab, to leave the province. Governor of Faryab has fled the capital Maimana and is hiding at undisclosed location. (AFP)

11th April
Forces of Abdul Rashid Dostum have withdrawn from Faryab province, leaving it in control of Afghan National Army. (Reuters)

An American civilian security contractor was shot and wounded in Khost. (Agencies)

12th April
Five people were injured and two killed in factional fighting between fighters loyal to Gen. Dostum and Commander Atta Mohammad in Balkh province. (AFP)

13th April
Two US unmanned spy planes crashed in Gardez. No injury or damage on the ground was caused by the incident. (AFP)

A new operation was launched by coalition forces to hunt down Al Qaeeda and Taliban elements in Khost province near the border with Pakistan. 600 Afghan and 100 US troops are taking part in the operation. (AP)

14th April
ISAF and Afghan security forces have arrested six militants during raids in Kabul, including a senior member of Hekmatyar's Hizb-i-Islami. (AP)

Six Dutch gunship helicopters arrived in Afghanistan to support the ISAF forces deployed in Kabul. (PPI)

15th April
7 Afghan civilians, traveling in a van, were stopped and executed in Paktika by unidentified attackers. (AFP)

Chief of Police in Kandahar, Gen. Salim and his two bodyguards were injured in an explosion near the US base in Kandahar city. (Reuters)

16th April
Suspected Taliban fighters killed a district Police chief and his nine bodyguards in Zabul Province. (AFP)

17th April
Factional fighting erupted between fighter loyal to Gen. Rashid Dostum and a local commander near Mazar-e-Sharif. One fighter was killed and several were injured in the fighting. (NNI)

18th April
Eight Afghan security officials were killed in an attack on a security post in Nimroz by suspected Taliban fighters. (AFP)

Afghan President Karzai has said that Afghanistan needs foreign troops for another ten years. (AFP)

20th April
US military base was hit by five rockets, but caused no casualties. (AFP)

ISAF and Afghan forces arrested eight people in Kabul, suspected of having links with Al Qaeeda and Hezb-e-Islami. (Agencies)

21st April
German Foreign Minister visited Kunduz to meet German troops stationed there. (AP)

22nd April
A bomb blast outside Spin Boldak Police Head Quarters killed an Afghan soldier and wounded two civilians. Kandahar's governor was in the Police Head Quarters at the time of the blast but escaped unhurt. (AFP)

Macedonia has announced that it will increase its presence in ISAF with an additional infantry platoon. (NNI)

23rd April
A Pakistani Truck supplying oil to US forces was attacked by Taliban fighters near Spin Boldak, killing the driver and injuring the cleaner. (NNI)

Afghan Police found an explosive device in a crowded street in Kabul and arrested one suspect. (SANA)

24th April
Suspected Taliban fighters attacked a compound of a foreign construction company in Kandahar province and burnt construction machinery and several vehicles. (AP)

25th April
Several prisoners including Taliban fighters have escaped from a prison in Zabul province. (Online)

26th April
UN has suspended its operations in Kandahar province due to adverse security situation. (NNI)

Police has arrested a man in Kandahar who was allegedly preparing to throw a hand grenade at the presidential convoy which passed on the road a few minutes after the arrest. (AFP)

27th April
Three US Marines were injured in an attack by suspected Taliban fighters in Kandahar province. (Agencies)

28th April
One Afghan soldier and two workers of humanitarian organization CHA were killed in an attack by suspected Taliban fighters in Kandahar province. (AP)

29th April
Two districts officials were killed and chief of Daichopan district and another man were injured in a mine explosion in Zabul province. (Reuters)

ISAF forces arrested 16 people for planning to smuggle rockets and other ammunition into Kabul. (AP)

30th April
Afghan police have arrested 18 persons in Kandahar in connection with attacks on government buildings and charity organization. (PPI)

Other News

2nd April
30,000 refugees has returned to Afghanistan during March 2004 under UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Programme. (The News)

UNICEF has launched a week-long nation wide campaign in Afghanistan to immunize 4 million females aged 15-45 against Tetanus. (NNI)

Afghanistan and its six neighbors, Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and China signed an agreement for cooperation in fight against narcotics. (AFP)

4th April
According to Afghan health officials, 4 children had died of whooping cough in Helmand while another 400 are confirmed infected with the disease. (NNI)

6th April
Up to 2,000 opium farmers in Nangarhar protested the Afghan government's plans to destroy poppy crop. They demanded that they should be provided alternative sources of income before their crop is destroyed. (Reuters)

7th April
A powerful earthquake, measuring 6.8 on the Richter Scale jolted northern areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan. There are no immediate reports of any deaths or injuries due to the earthquake. (Agencies)

8th April
Afghan authorities burned 5.4 tonnes of seized hashish and opium in Zabul Province. (PPI)

11th April
Four Afghan law students have got a special prize in the Philip C. Jessup Moot Court Law Competition held in Washington D.C. (Online)

14th April
Nine members of Afghanistan's national soccer team, which is visiting Verona Italy, have left their hotel and are missing. (AP)

17th April
Afghan Ministry of Justice has started Human rights training for key prison staff in Kabul. (NNI)

20th April
A group of 250 refugees left Islamabad for Afghanistan under the UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Programme. (Agencies)

21st April
Afghanistan's Football Association has decided to disband the national team after 9 players disappeared during the tour of Italy. (NNI)

23rd April
According to a UNHCR spokesman, 500,000 Afghan refuges will return from Iran to Afghanistan this year. (Agencies)

24th April
Officials at Nangarhar have lifted ban on female performers on Television, which was imposed a few days back. (Online)

28th April
Afghans celebrated 12th anniversary of the end of communist rule. A traditional military parade was held in Kabul witnessed by Afghan president and other high ranking officials. (AP)

12 Afghan elementary school teachers have been selected for training at University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA. (SANA)

29th April
Government of Pakistan has decided to shift all Afghan refugees out of the capital Islamabad. The refugees will be given a choice either to repatriate to Afghanistan or relocate to Chandana camp at Mianwali. (The News)

NGOs in Afghanistan have shown concern over the statement of Afghan Planning Minister, who called NGOs ineffective and accused them of squandering Afghan reconstruction money. (Agencies)

30th April
According to US Agriculture Department, Poppy crop in Afghanistan will witness a 50% increase this year. (Reuters).

The tripartite meeting of officials from Iran, Afghanistan and UNHCR was held in Kabul. During the meeting repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran was discussed. (PPI)

According to UNICEF report, there are 8,000 armed children present in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

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News Summary for May-2004

Aid and Economic Development

6th May
The Asian Development Bank (ADP) has approved $55 million soft loan to revive Afghanistan's agricultural sector. (AFP)

7th May
Turkmenistan has doubled electricity supply to Afghanistan by installing a new power transmission line. (NNI)

13th May
President Karzai opened Herat Power Supply Project during his visit to Herat. The power supply is extended from Turkmenistan with capacity of 80 MW of electricity. The project was completed in one year with the cost of $9m. (NNI)

14th May
Pakistan has established two new border posts at Kili Ghulam Khan and Shahi in Dir to facilitate trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. (The News)

15th May
USAID has awarded a $10 million contract to Roots for Peace Organization for restoration of grape and raisin vineyards in Ghazni, Kandahar and Parwan. (NNI)

20th May
Work has started on US funded Jalalabad-Asmar Road, which will connect Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan. (Online)

21st May
Germany will provide €48 millions over the next four years for restructuring Afghan Police. (PPI)

Qatar will construct 10,000 housing units in Afghanistan for returning refugees. Qatar will also construct the building of police headquarters in Kabul, two blocks at Kabul Airport and several health centers across the country. (Online)

25th May
Pakistan donated 35 trucks to the Government of Afghanistan. (Nation)

The first Private TV Channel in Kabul – Afghan Television Channel - has started transmission. (Online)

Iran will donate $100 million for the reconstruction of Kabul. (Agencies)

The National Bank of Pakistan has opened its second branch in Kabul, which will start operations from May 26, 2004. (APP)

26th May
US has invited Afghanistan along with some Middle Eastern countries to participate in the G-8 summit to be held in June this year. (AFP)

Representatives of Japanese Government distributed 'Peace Gift Packs' donated by Japanese Girls Guide Association, among the Afghan refugee children in Khorasan Camp near Peshawar. (PPI)

27th May
WFP has launched an operation to provide food aid to over 360,000 people for the next two months in the drought-hit southern provinces of Afghanistan. (NNI)

30th May
Indian Company, Mahindra and Mahindra will supply 120 multi-utility vehicles to the Afghan Government. (Agencies)

The Asian Development Bank (ADP) has approved a $750,000 grant to Afghanistan to support its power transmission grid project. (AFP)

Political Developments

1st May
Shinwari tribe in Nangarhar has demanded that their area may be declared a separate province. (NNI)

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News Summary for January-2004

Aid and Economic Development

1st January

India has donated 300 military vehicles, including trucks, ambulances and jeeps, to the Afghan National Army. (AFP)

Asian Development Bank (ADP) has approved a grant of $1.75 million to help Afghan government improve the collection and analysis of national statistics. (NNI)

3rd January

US has allocated $40 million to build a bridge over Pyandzh River, which separates Afghanistan and Tajikistan. (NNI)

11th January

Asian Development Bank (ADP) has approved $5 million grant for Afghanistan to repair its damaged irrigation system. (NNI)

13th January

Pakistan will donate 100 buses and 100 trucks to Afghanistan, provide scholarships to Afghan students in the fields of IT, Engineering and business administration, establish a kidney centre at Kandahar and will reconstruct Torkham-Jalalabad highway. This was announced by Pakistani Prime Minister Jamali during his visit to Kabul. (APP)

15th January

ADP has approved $3 million for Integrated Community Development in Northern Afghanistan Project, which will help to improve the standards of living through community participation. (SANA)

20th January

The Indian company, CAMPCO will export 30 tonnes of Areca nut to Afghanistan. (Online)

21st January

Russian firm UAZ will supply 1,010 all terrain vehicle to Afghanistan, under a UN programme, for use during general elections. (NNI)

International Finance Corporation has signed an agreement with Agha Khan Fund for Economic Development to invest in the First Micro Finance Bank of Afghanistan (FMFB-A). (SANA)

A new Sheberghan based private TV network, Aana, has started transmission in Turkmeni, Uzbek, Pushto and Dari languages. The transmission can be seen in Balkh, Faryab, Jauzjan and Sar-e-Pul provinces. (APP)

23rd January

Afghan Government has approved a $160 million project to build schools, medical facilities and communication infrastructure in every district of the country. However, so far only $67 million has been pledged by donors for the project. (AFP)

28th January

US Government has announced that it is accelerating the disbursement of $1.6 billion in new assistance to Afghanistan. (NNI)

Political Developments

1st January

The commander of US forces in Afghanistan, Gen. David Barno, has said that he supports the efforts of Afghan Government to negotiate with moderate Taliban leaders. (Agencies)

6th January

After two weeks of deliberations, the Constitutional Loya Jirga approved the draft Afghan Constitution with some amendments. (AP)

The spokesman of Gen. Dostum has said that hundreds of Taliban fighters held in jails under the control of Gen. Dostum since 2001 will be freed soon. (Reuters)

7th January

The UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi stepped down from his position after serving for more than two years. (NNI)

8th January

Germany has handed over the command of Kunduz Provincial Reconstruction Team to NATO. (PPI)

5th May
A delegation of Hizb-i-Islami, after extended negations with Afghan leaders including President Karzai, have announced that they will abandon violence and support the political process in Afghanistan. (PPI)

10th May
More than 50 former delegates to Constitutional Loya Jirga have written letters to Afghan President and other Afghan and UN officials, complaining that President Karzai has made changes to the Afghan constitution, approved by Constitutional Loya Jirga in January this year. (NNI)

11th May
President Karzai is visiting Herat where he will meet Herat's Governor, Ismail Khan. He will discuss starting of disarmament process in Herat with Ismail Khan. (Agencies)

16th May
UNAMA has lowered the estimate of total potential voters for Afghan general election from 10.5 million to about 9 million. (Agencies)

17th May
The head of Civil and Islamic Party, the former Taliban leader Mohammad Aref Karzai has said that if elected, they would not repeat hard-line tactics of Taliban, rather they would use flexible means for governing the country. (NNI)

18th May
A new political party, Afghan Labour and Development Party, has been officially registered with the Justice Ministry in Kabul. (Agencies)

A delegation of Afghan religious leaders met with President Karzai and demanded an end to US military operation in Afghanistan. (Online)

President Karzai met with a delegation of Hazaras from different parts of Afghanistan and discussed reconstruction and development process in Afghanistan. (NNI)

20th May
Commander Atta Mohammad has agreed to register his troops with Afghan government and will submit a list of his troops to central government soon. (Agencies)

21st May
Commander Atta Mohammad has expressed concern over the statement of UNAMA chief in which he had accused several warlords, including Atta Mohammad, of being unwilling to cooperate with the DDR programme. Atta Mohammad warned that he will stop cooperation with DDR until UNAMA apologizes for the statement. (Online)

22nd May
UN and Nangarhar Provincial Officials have asked the elders of the province to help in voter registration process in Nangarhar. (Online)

Ismail Khan, Governor of Herat, has strongly opposed the deployment of Afghan National Army troops in Herat saying that there is peace and stability in Herat and therefore no need for troops deployment. (Agencies)

German Interior Minister met with President Karzai and other high officials during his visit to Kabul. He later visited German troops deployed in Kunduz. (NNI)

24th May
Abdul Qahir Shariati, chief of Islamic Nationalities Shura, has announced unconditional support for the Government of President Hamid Karzai. (Nation)

26th May
A number of Afghan presidential candidates have called upon President Karzai to resign before the elections, so that fair and free presidential elections could be guaranteed. (NNI)

27th May
The spokesperson for Afghan President has said that the elections in Afghanistan will held on schedule in September 2004 and there are no plans to delay the elections further, despite security concerns. (PPI)

Four top Afghan commanders – Ismail Khan, Atta Mohammad, Hazrat Ali and Daud – during a meeting with Defense Minister, have agreed to support disarmament process and to disarm their forces. (APP)

28th May
President Karzai has appointed Mr. Enayatullah Qasemi as a Ministerial Advisor on Legal Affairs and International Relations. (Agencies)

President Karzai has enacted a new election law. The general election in September this year will be held under this new law. (Reuters)

30th May
Posters have appeared in Wardak province in which Afghans taking part in election process have been warned of serious consequences. The posters are signed by someone claiming to be representative of 'Jamat-e-Akhwan-ul-Muslimin. (NNI)

Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to draw a demarcation line on their border at Lawara Mandai area of North Waziristan Agency. Lime was used to

draw the demarcation line in the presence of Pakistani, Afghan and US Military authorities. (The News)

Security Matters

1st May
Five Afghan soldiers died in an ambush by suspected Taliban fighters in Kandahar Province. (AFP)

Three Afghan schoolgirls were in critical condition after being poisoned in Khost. Officials blaming Taliban for the incident termed it their attempt to discourage female education in the area. (AFP)

2nd May
A US soldier was injured in a grenade attack on US convoy in Khost. One of the attackers was also killed in the incident. (AP)

Commander Abdul Razzaq and his five bodyguards were ambushed and killed in Kandahar Province by suspected Taliban fighters. (NNI)

5th May
Dead bodies of five policemen kidnapped in Zabul have been found. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the killing. (Agencies)

6th May
2,000 US Marines have been deployed in Oruzgan Province to hunt for Al Qaeeda and Taliban fighters. (AP)

Two British nationals on Election duty with UN and their Afghan translator were killed by Taliban fighters in Nuristan. (Reuters)

One civilian was killed and a foreign funded school was damaged during accidental firefight between US troops and Afghan Police in Paktia. (Online)

9th May
A US Marine was killed and another injured in a clash with suspected Taliban fighters in Oruzgan province. (Reuters)

10th May
ISAF and Afghan soldiers have seized and destroyed a large amount of weapons and ammunition, hidden in caves 34 kilometers west of Kabul. (NNI)

10th May
Two foreigners were found dead in Chelsatun Garden in Kabul. The foreigners, one Swiss and one Norwegian national, were beaten with bricks and stones by unknown attackers. According to Kabul Police they were involved in gem smuggling (AFP/AP)

A UN vehicle was destroyed and its driver slightly injured in an explosion in Nangarhar. (Agencies)

11th May
Seven people were killed in fighting between Police and a local commander in Sarobi district of Paktika. (AP)

US forces have arrested 35 suspected Taliban, including Taliban commander Mulla Rozi Khan, in Zabul province. (Online)

Two attackers were inured when the bomb they were planting outside the gates of US Aid Group office in Maimana exploded prematurely. (Reuters)

12th May
A German peacekeeper was injured when a rocket hit the ISAF base in Kabul. (AP/AFP)

Two Afghan soldiers were killed and their vehicle stolen by suspected Taliban fighters in Zabul province. (AP)

14th May
Four election workers were injured in Kunar province when the vehicle they were traveling in hit a landmine. (Agencies)

Taliban fighters killed two close associates of former Kandahar Governor, Gul Agha Sherzai, in Zabul province. (PPI)

17th May
One US soldier was killed and two others injured an attack on their convoy in Helmand province. (Agencies)

A bomb exploded near UNHCR office in Faryab, causing no damage or injuries. (AFP)

18th May
A rocket was fired at the office of CARE International office in Logar, damaging the roof but causing no injuries. (AP)

A regional commander in Balkh – Abdul Sattar – was arrested by Afghan authorities on suspicion of killing six soldiers loyal to commander Atta. (Agencies)

Afghan troops have recovered large quantity of arm, ammunition and explosives during an operation in Farah. (PPI)

19th May
Two Policemen were killed by unidentified attackers in Kabul Province. (NNI)

20th May
Two Taliban fighters and two Afghan soldiers died in a clash in Zabul while two Taliban fighters, one Afghan soldier and a civilian driver was killed in a clash in Paktika. (Agencies)

The main phase of DDR process was launched in Kabul with decommissioning of 135 soldiers from 99 Rocket Brigade and collecting of 60 surface to air missiles. (NNI)

21st May
Three employees of Central Statistics Office and a policemen were injured in a bomb explosion in Khost Province. (AFP)

22nd May
Three people including two women died when US forces bombed a house in Khost. According to Mayor of Khost the house was bombed after US soldiers came under fire in the area. (Agencies)

According to the Afghan Interior Minister, 24,000 strong new Afghan Police will provide security during the elections. (AP)

23rd May
Four US soldiers were injured when rockets were fired at their base in Khost. (Agencies)

25th May
A Norwegian peacekeeper was killed and another injured when their vehicle was hit by a rocket, fired by unidentified attackers on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway. (AFP)

26th May
At least 20 suspected Taliban fighters were killed by US air strikes in Spin Boldak area of Kandahar Province. (Reuters)

An Afghan soldier was killed when Taliban in Paktika attacked the convoy of aid shipment they were guarding. (AP)

28th May
Two children were killed in mine blasts in Durmishtan village in Kandahar Province. (AP)

The second phase of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Process has been launched in Kunduz, with disarmament of 1000 former militiamen. (APP)

30th May
Two US soldiers were wounded in a clash with anti-coalition forces in Paktika. (Agencies)

Afghan security forces and ISAF soldiers arrested 36 suspected Taliban in Bagrami district of Kabul province. (Agencies)

31st May
Four US soldiers were killed in clashes with anti-coalition forces in Zabul. (AFP)

Suspected Taliban fighters killed four Afghan soldiers in the attack on government building in Helmand. One attacker also died in the fighting. (AP)

Other News

5th May
Afghanistan, Iran and UNHCR have signed an agreement for repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran. (PPI)

The death toll from accidental explosion of two fuel trucks in Herat Province has reached fifty. (Agencies)

6th May
More than 1,000 Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their home provinces from Khost with the assistance of UNHCR and IOM. (Agencies)

The United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA – hosted a five-day international training workshop in Kabul to address issues of women in leadership in the post-conflict Afghanistan. (Agencies)

7th May
About 270 prisoners in Sheberghan Jail who are accused of supporting Taliban, have ended their hunger strike after the Afghan authorities started shifting them to a prison in Kabul. (NNI)

9th May
Afghan and Russian Foreign Ministers inaugurated the new building of Afghan Embassy in Moscow. (Agencies)

US forces have withdrawn a leaflet distributed in southern Afghanistan, calling on people to provide information on Al Qaeeda and Taliban or face losing humanitarian assistance, after protests from aid organizations. Senior US military officials have said that it is not the US policy to link aid with military operations and called the leaflet a mistake. (Online)

13th May
An Afghan Journalist, Sami Yosufzai, who was arrested along with an American lady in FR Bannu region in Pakistan has been shifted to Miranshah, while the American lady has been deported. (The News)

17th May

US government has started investigation of the allegations of prisoner abuse in US detention centers in Afghanistan. (Online)

18th May

Afghan Police has impounded 100 kg of heroine in Nangarhar. (Agencies)

20th May

Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan has appealed to Pakistan government to extend the two months deadline given to Afghan refugees in Islamabad either to shift to a camp in Mainwali or repatriate to Afghanistan. (NNI)

First ever concert in Kabul, since the Taliban government was established in 1996, was held in Kabul stadium by the popular singer Farhad Darya. (Online)

ICRC has requested US military authorities to allow it to visit US Controlled detention facility at Kandahar. According to US military spokesperson, the request is under consideration. (PPI)

21st May

Ex-Afghan King Zahir Shah has been flown to UAE for medical checkup after suffering nose bleeding. (PPI)

22nd May

According to UNAMA spokesperson, Emergency aid has been sent to Sar-i-Pul province, following severe flooding in area. (NNI)

23rd May

US Military has appointed Brigadier General Charles Jacoby to conduct a detailed review of the US detention centers in Afghanistan. The review was ordered, following allegations of prisoner abuse, by US Military in Afghanistan. (Frontier Post)

24th May

Dr. Seema Samar, Chairperson of Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan has been named the recipient of the 2004 Jonathan Mann Award for Health and Human Rights in Washington D.C. (NNI)

28th May

Afghan President Karzai has been awarded Philadelphia Liberty Medal for 2004. He will receive the medal in ceremony to be held in Philadelphia on July 4, 2004. (NNI)

European Union has criticized the US led coalition forces for operating in civilian clothes in vehicles similar to that of aid agencies, thus blurring the distinction between military personnel and aid workers, which increases the danger for aid workers. (AP)

A UN Spokesman has expressed his concern over the slow pace of expansion of ISAF troops in Afghanistan. (AFP)

31st May

Ariana Afghan Airlines has started flights to the French capital Paris. (Agencies)

An Afghan court has awarded death sentence to a suspected Taliban fighter for bombing in Kandahar in January this year in which 15 people including 13 children died. (PPI)

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News Summary for June-2004

Aid and Economic Development

3rd June
Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan in collaboration with Afghan Motors Limited has opened its first service center in Kabul. (NNI)

12th June
The Canadian based Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) has sent several trainers to Afghanistan to train representatives of Afghan print and electronic media in coverage of election process. (NNI)

16th June
Indian telecommunications firm CCIL will establish telecommunications networks in eastern Afghanistan. The project will cost $149 million, which will be met through Indian aid. (Online)

The first venture capital fund in Afghanistan, The Afghan Renewal Fund, has been launched and is seeking to raise $50 million. ADB may commit $12.5 million to the fund while UK based CDC Group may put $5million in the fund. (Agencies)

19th June
According to the president of Habib Bank Limited (HBL) in Kabul, HBL will soon open branches in Kandahar, Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. (NNI)

20th June
Afghan President Karzai has said that Afghanistan is seeking to actively cooperate with and become a partner of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). (Agencies)

25th June
International Finance Corporation (IFC) will invest $7 million in expansion and restoration of Kabul Hotel. (Agencies)

World Bank will give a loan of $105 million to Afghan Government for rebuilding/improvement of electricity system in Kabul. (NNI)

29th June
Kam Air, the new Afghan private airline has launched international operations with flights from Kabul to Dubai. Kam Air is planning to introduce flights to more international destinations. (Online)

Political Developments

1st June
Mohammad Karim Khalili, leader of Wahdat Islami party has formally dissolved the military wing of his party. (NNI)

5th June
An Afghan Politician, Ahmed Shah Ahmadzai, has announced his candidacy for the upcoming Afghan Presidential Elections, bringing the total number of candidates to seven. (SANA)

Two new voters registration centers have been established in Shibegahan. (NNI)

6th June
Afghan President Karzai has proposed a plan to cut the number of ministries in central government from 29 to 20. The plan needs approval of the cabinet before implementation. (Reuters)

7th June
According to UNAMA, Afghan election process is facing shortfall of funds. $101 million are required for the election, while donors have pledged only $70 million so far. (Agencies)

8th June
With the opening of a voters registration centers in Paktika, all provinces of Afghanistan now have voter's registration centers. (AFP)

11th June
UN has suspended voters registration in Kunduz province, following the killing of 11 Chinese workers by unidentified attackers. (AFP)

14th June
Some local people and troops of 82nd Division prevented the newly appointed Governor of Sar-e-Pol province, Abdul Haq Shafaq, from entering his office and forced him to return to Mazar-e-Sharif. (NNI)

15th June
The community leaders of Shindand district of Herat province have demanded that their district should be upgraded to a province, otherwise they will boycott the upcoming general elections. (AFP)

President Karzai has said that elections in Afghanistan will be held in September 2004, as scheduled despite logistical difficulties and security concerns. (Agencies)

16th June
A demonstration was held in Kabul to demand the resignation of President Karzai. According to the demonstrators, as per decisions of Bonn conference and Loya Jirga, the term of Hamid Karzai's presidency has ended on June 11 2004. (Reuters)

EU Foreign Ministers Council approved plans to deploy a democracy and elections support team in Afghanistan. (Online)

17th June
President Karzai, during his visit to Washington, addressed the Congress and met with President Bush. He thanked USA for supporting Afghanistan and asked for more support in improving security and stability in his country. (Online)

21st June
According to UN 4 million Afghans, one third of the 10.5 million eligible to vote, has been registered as voters so far. (AFP)

Pakistan's President Musharraf invited Afghan President Karzai to visit Pakistan during a telephonic conversation. President Karzai accepted the invitation. The officials of the two countries will work out schedule of the visit later. (APP)

24th June
More than 200 young delegates from 34 provinces of Afghanistan, attending the conference "Afghan Youth and the Upcoming Election" in Kabul have demanded that the elections may be postponed for another six months as there is serious lack of awareness about the election process. (Online)

Security Matters

1st June
Turkey has sent three helicopters along with flight and maintenance personal to Afghanistan to serve with ISAF forces. (SANA)

US troops shot and killed a student and arrested another, who tried to flee the search operation in Kundi village in Khost province. (AP)

2nd June
The Chief of Security Jalalabad, Haji Ajab Shah was killed when a bomb exploded in his office at Jalalabad. Taliban have claimed responsibility for planting the bomb. (Online)

NATO took over the command of Kabul's military airport from German troops. (AFP)

Security personnel defused a bomb planted on the wall of a girl's school in Kabul. (APP)

3rd June
Five employees of MSF, including three foreigners, were killed when their vehicle was ambushed in Badghis Province. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. (AFP)

Afghan security forces repulsed an attack by Taliban on headquarters of Shah Joy district of Zabul. Three Taliban fighters and three Afghan soldiers were killed in the fighting. (Reuters)

4th June
A bomb disguised as a gift for a Police Chief in Nangarhar province, exploded in his office, injuring seven of his staff members. (Agencies)

5th June
13 Taliban fighters were killed while eight others were captured in a firefight with coalition forces in Kandahar province. Two coalition soldiers and an Afghan soldier were wounded in the fighting. (AFP)

7th June
A 15 member Election team traveling in UN vehicles, including national and international staff, were ambushed by unidentified attackers while traveling from Paktia to Khost. No one was injured in the attack. (AP)

8th June
A grenade was thrown into the office of Italian NGO Alisei in Badghis province. The attack caused no damage or injury. (Reuters)

The Governor or Oruzgan Province escaped unhurt in an attack by suspected Taliban fighters. However, three of his bodyguards were injured in the attack. (NNI)

A policeman was killed in a firefight with anti-government forces in Kharar district of Logar. (PPI)

Two students were injured when a bomb exploded in a religious school in Khost. (Agencies)

A US soldier was killed and two others injured when their vehicle hit an explosive device in Oruzgan. (AFP)

Police defused a bomb which was disguised as a gift and delivered to the office of the Mayor of Chparhar district of Nangarhar. (AP)

9th June

Twenty-Three Taliban fighters were killed in Dai Chopan area in Zabul in fighting with coalition forces. Two US soldiers and several Afghan personnel of Afghan Army were also wounded in the fighting. (Reuters)

10th June

Authorities in Badghis province have arrested ten people suspected of killing five MSF workers last week. (AFP)

11th June

Eleven Chinese nationals, working for a Chinese road construction company, were killed and four more were injured when unidentified attackers fired on their tents in Kunduz province. The authorities have arrested two people in connection with the attack. (Reuters/AP)

15th June

Taliban fighters attacked a government building in Shorabak in Kandahar Province. The building was set on fire and one government soldier in missing in the attack. (Online)

Three people including a police officer were killed in factional fighting in Ghor province. (AFP)

According to US military spokesman, coalition forces have killed 80 Taliban fighters and captured 90 during three week long operation in Zabul Province. (AFP)

16th June

Afghan forces killed four suspected Taliban fighters and captured two others in an encounter in Zabul province. (AP)

17th June

A bomb exploded near PRT vehicle in Kunduz, killing the Afghan driver and three people passing near the vehicle, including two children. (Reuters)

18th June

Director of Refugees Department at Kandahar, Hamid Agha, and his bodyguard were shot dead by unidentified attackers in Kandahar. (Online)

19th June

Unidentified attackers fired rocket propelled grenades at the office of the UNHCR in Kandahar city, causing minor damage to the building. No one was injured in the attack. (Reuters)

20th June

Five Taliban fighters and two government soldiers were killed when Taliban fighters attacked a government building in Mizan town in Zabul province. (AP)

22nd June

Unidentified attackers fired rocket propelled grenades at the UN election office in Pul-e-Alam, Logar. Some UN vehicles were slightly damaged in the attack but no one was injured. (APP)

Security forces arrested two men in Kunduz, who were trying to plant a bomb in a girl's school. (Agencies)

23rd June

Afghan Government is sending troops to Ghor province to stop factional fighting. The fighting started after a local commander overrun the capital of Ghor and drove the Governor out of the province. (Online)

More than fifty aid agencies, working in Afghanistan, have asked NATO to redouble its efforts to promote security in Afghanistan by deploying troops in the provinces with adverse security situation and helping in disarming local militias. (Reuters)

24th June

Unidentified attacker fired upon the house of an Afghan politician and women rights activists Suraya Parlika in Kabul. No one was injured in the incident. (AFP)

Five Afghan soldiers were killed and two were wounded in Spin Boldak, Kandahar when their vehicle hit an explosive device. (Reuters)

According to a senior Afghan Commander Afghan Army soldier beheaded four Taliban fighters in retaliation for beheading of an Afghan soldier and an interpreter by the Taliban. The Afghan Interior Minister has denied beheading of Taliban by Government forces. (PPI/Reuters)

25th June

According to Afghan Interior Minster, the killing of 11 Chinese workers in Kunduz on June 10th was not the work of terrorist rather the incident may be the result of business rivalry among local businessmen. (Reuters)

27th June
An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded in a van carrying election workers from Jalalabad to Rodat killing two persons and injuring 10 others. (Agencies)

28th June
Tribal elders in Qalat, Zabul, have handed over a Turkish engineer to the Afghan authorities. He was abducted by suspected Taliban fighters in March this year. (Online)

29th June
Seven Afghan policemen were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on their vehicle in Farah Province. (Agencies)

US forces have killed five Taliban fighters and captured two mid level Taliban leaders in an operation in Zabul Province. (AFP)

NATO has announced that it will increase its troops in Afghanistan from the present 6,500 to around 10,000 ahead of general elections scheduled for September this year. (Reuters)

30th June
Afghan security forces arrested former Chief Justice of Afghan Supreme Court, Maulvi Siddiqullah in Kabul and have shifted him to an undisclosed location. (Agencies)

Sweden will send another sixty troops to Afghanistan, to join 50 Swedish troops already serving under ISAF in Kabul. (AP)

France has blocked a US bid to deploy NATO's new NATO Response Force (NRF) to safeguard Afghanistan's upcoming elections. (Reuters)

Three US soldiers were injured when their vehicle hit an improvised Explosive Device in Paktika. (The News)

Other News

2nd June
A 45 year old man, his two year old daughter and six months old son died of AIDS in Kabul Hospital. These were the first reported deaths due to AIDS in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

The Security Commander of Kabul has accused NGOs of contributing to insecurity in Kabul. He said that many NGO workers possess arms, which is a security threat for residents of Kabul. (NNI)

3rd June
Afghan Government has reopened Ariana, the largest cinema in Afghanistan, after rebuilding it with support from French Government. (Online)

7th June
Kabul Golf club has reopened after being closed for almost a decade. (PPI)

10th June
US military authorities has granted permission to ICRC to visit US Detention facility at Kandahar. (Reuters)

13th June
Pakistani authorities have ordered Afghan refugees living in South Waziristan Agency to leave the area within 72 hours. They have been asked to either return to Afghanistan or shift to a camp in Dera Ismail Khan District. (The News)

19th June
US authorities have charged a CIA contractor with killing of an Afghan prisoner in 2003. Afghan government has hailed the decision to prosecute the contractor. (AFP)

22nd June
According to UN, a 99 year old women and 105 years old man became the oldest Afghans to register as voters for the upcoming elections. (Online)

25th June
Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) have been awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the US Congress and a Certificate of Recognition from California Legislature Assembly in a ceremony held in Santa Barbara, California. (The Nation)

28th June
Two tankers, carrying flammable liquid caught fire in Kabul when the driver of one of the tankers lighted a cigarette near the tanker. (NNI)

Kabul police has arrested a child kidnapper and recovered several kidnapped children from his hideout. (Online)

30th June
UN Human Rights experts have demanded access to US detention facilities in Afghanistan, Iraq and Gauntanamo Bay to assess the condition of prisoners held there. (NNI)

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News Summary for July-2004

Aid and Economic Development

1st July
Bank Melli and Bank Sederat of Iran will jointly establish a commercial Bank named Aryan in Kabul. (Agencies)

2nd July
The Provincial Reconstruction Committee (PRC) in Kandahar has announced that it will establish an agricultural bank in Kandahar. (PPI)

3rd July
20 Afghan judges, including five women, will be trained in Italy by the Rome based International Development Law Organization (IDLO). (AFP)

5th July
Afghanistan International Bank, established with an investment of $10 million, started its operations in Kabul. (NNI)

7th July
Pakistan and Iran have offered to train Afghan anti-narcotics officials to help them fight the growing drug problem in Afghanistan. (AP)

8th July
The Korean International Cooperation Agency along with the Afghanistan Administrative Committee has launched a joint project to open a computer training centre in Kabul, aimed at providing training to public workers. (NNI)

US led coalition forces established a new Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) at Paktika. (AFP)

9th July
A second bridge linking Tajikistan with Afghanistan over the rive Panj has been inaugurated. (NNI)

UNESCO has renovated the Educational Radio and TV Centre, based at Afghan Ministry of Education, with the $25 million funding from Government of Italy. (NNI)

UNDP has announced a new phase of the programme for raising gender awareness in Afghan Government institutions, and to improve gender balance and women's priorities, in government policies. (NNI)

15th July
Pakistan has agreed on a $3 million package for Afghanistan to improve efficiency of its security agencies. (The News)

18th July
Japan will extend $8.8 million in grants to Afghanistan through UNDP, to help finance the Afghan presidential and parliamentary elections. (Agencies)

27th July
Afghan Government with the support of World Bank will reconstruct and repair 990 schools throughout Afghanistan over the next two years. (PPI)

29th July
Australia will provide another $2 million in aid to finance the upcoming elections in Afghanistan. (NNI)

30th July
European Commission approved an extra nine million euros to fund upcoming elections in Afghanistan. (AFP)

Political Developments

1st July
A *Jirga* of Afghan Refugees living in Peshawar has demanded the right to vote in the upcoming Afghan presidential elections. (APP)

2nd July
A Court in Kabul has sentenced a man, Naqibullah, to death for assassinating Vice President and Public Works Minister, Haji Abul Qadir two years ago. (Agencies)

3rd July
Latif Perdram, the head of the Afghanistan National Congress Party and a candidate in the forthcoming

Afghan Presidential elections, has announced that if elected president, he is prepared to recognize the Durand line as a permanent international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. (AFP)

7th July
According to Afghan Government spokesman, the Presidential and Parliamentary elections may be held separately on different dates. (AFP)

12th July
The head of Afghan Election Commission has announced that Afghan Presidential elections will be held on October 9, 2004, while the parliamentary elections will be held in April 2005. (Online)

13th July
Afghan President Karzai has said that private militias maintained by local commanders in a greater danger to the country than the Taliban insurgency. (NNI)

14th July
Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdullah Abdullah met with his Pakistani counterpart and other high officials during his visit to Islamabad. During the meetings, the security situation, trade between the two countries and other issues of bilateral interest were discussed. (AFP)

17th July
According to UNAMA more than 7 million Afghans, including 4.3 million men and 2.9 million women, have registered as voters for the Afghan elections. (NNI)

18th July
According to a Asia Foundation Poll, sixty two percent of the respondents had a favourable opinion of the Afghan President Karzai. (Agencies)

19th July
Pakistan has agreed to allow Afghan refugees living in Pakistan to participate in the upcoming elections in Afghanistan. Details in this regard are being sorted out in consultation with UNAMA and Afghan Government. (NNI)

Gen. Rashid Dostum has announced that he will contest the Afghan Presidential elections. (NNI)

21st July
Former Afghan President, Burhanuddin Rabani criticized the postponement of parliamentary elections until April 2005, terming the decision against the spirit of the constitution. (Reuters)

26th July
President Karzai has postponed his trip to Pakistan, scheduled for July 26. According to the Afghan Government spokesman, the trip was cancelled because it coincided with deadline for presidential candidacy nomination. (AFP)

27th July
Afghan President Karzai filed his nomination papers for the Afghan Presidential elections. Mr. Ahmed Zia Masood will run with him for the vice president. The former Education Minister Yonus Qanooni also announced that he will contest the elections for the president. (AFP)

28th July
According to a poll by US Based International Republic Institution, 78% of Afghans will vote for President Karzai. (Agencies)

29th July
Twenty three candidates have registered for the Presidential elections in Afghanistan by the deadline on 26th July. (NNI)

Security Matters

1st July
Twenty-seven people were injured in two explosions in Jalalabad City. (AFP)

Pakistani and Afghan forces exchanged fire on Pak-Afghan border in Mohmand Agency. Heavy weapons were used in the fighting, however no loss of life was reported. (The News)

An Australian journalist, Carmela Baranowska, working for SBS TV has gone missing in Helmand province. (The News)

The bodies of sixteen Afghan civilians, kidnapped by Taliban in Zabul last week for possessing voter registration cards, have been found. (Online)

2nd July
Suspected Taliban fighters have killed a pro-government cleric in Kandahar. (The News)

Two French peacekeepers were wounded in a landmine explosion at a landing site north of Kabul. (Online)

3rd July
Spanish parliament approved a plan to increase the number of Spanish troops in Afghanistan from 137 to 1,000. (AP)

5th July
Afghan National Army troops were deployed in Ghor Province to restore order after factional fighting erupted last month. (NNI)

9th January
According to Afghan Interior Minister, the general elections scheduled for next year will be held on time despite security concerns. (Agencies)

10th January
A UN spokesperson has said that registration of voters is going so slowly in Afghanistan that it will be very difficult to hold the general elections on schedule i.e. in June 2004. (NNI)

13th January
A high level Pakistani delegation, led by Prime Minister Jamali, visited Kabul and met with Afghan President Karzai and other officials. The two parties agreed on cooperation in fight against terrorism and enhancing trade and business relations. (APP)

14th January
An agreement was signed between ISAF and Afghan Defence Minister, Mohammad Qasim Fahim, for removal of heavy weapons from Kabul. (Online)

15th January
NATO's new Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, appealed to the NATO governments to commit more troops for expansion of ISAF in Afghanistan. (AP)

16th January
A group of US congressmen arrived at Kabul to discuss security situation in Afghanistan with Afghan officials. (Agencies)

17th January
China and Afghanistan have agreed to cooperate in fight against terrorism. (NNI)

18th January
President Karzai after registering as a voter in Kabul said that Afghan Government and International community is doing its utmost to ensure that Afghans can vote freely in upcoming general elections. (Reuters)

19th January
President Karzai has ordered the release of all Taliban prisoners in Sheberghan Jail, except the ones who are still considered dangerous. (AP)

20th January
Gen. Dostum has said that he is seeking a 'senior military position' in Afghan government. (AFP)

UN has showed its dissatisfaction over the slow pace of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process in Afghanistan. (SANA)

23rd January
Governor of Zabul Hafizullah Hashemi has been recalled to Kabul and Khail Mohammad Hosayni has been appointed as the acting governor. (NNI)

In a report, unanimously adopted by the European Parliament, Pakistan and Iran has been asked to respect the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and refrain from interfering in internal affairs of Afghanistan. (News)

A leader of Afghanistan's Hazara community, Mohammad Mohaqiq, has announced that he will be a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections. (AFP)

24th January
According to UNAMA 507,513 Afghans including 112,000 females have registered as voters for the upcoming general elections. (Agencies)

26th January
President Karzai has called upon former *Jihadi* Organizations to hand over their weapons to Afghan Army and start lawful political activities. (Agencies)

27th January
President Karzai signed the new Afghan Constitution into law on Monday. (AP)

29th January
A group of Constitutional Loya Jirga delegates have alleged that the Afghan government has made changes to the text of constitution that was approved by the Constitutional Loya Jirga. However, Director of the Constitutional Commission Secretariat has rejected these allegations. (PPI)

US State Department's Coordinator for Afghanistan has said that the Afghan general elections may be delayed beyond the June 2004 deadline. (APP)

Security Matters

2nd January
14 anti-coalition fighters were killed in Paktika province in a gun battle with US troops. Three US soldiers were also injured in the fighting. (AFP/AP)

3rd January
Afghan security forces have recovered weapons, including anti tank rockets and land mines in Nangarhar province. The weapons were loaded on a horse and nobody was with the horse at the time. (AP)

Six people were injured when a bomb exploded in a compound in Kabul, where explosives devices were being assembled. Police have arrested three persons in this connection. (AFP)

6th July
A roadside bomb exploded in Lashkar Gah, Helmand when the Mayor of Lashkar Gah was passing by. The Mayor escaped unhurt but one of his bodyguards was wounded in the explosion. (AFP)

Mullah Siddiqullah, a Taliban Commander and secretary of Mullah Omar has been killed in clashes with coalition forces in Zabul. (Online)

7th July
Pakistani and Afghan troops again exchanged fire with heavy weapons on Pak-Afghan border in Mohmand Agency. There are no reports of causalities on either side. (AP)

Suspected Taliban fighters in Kandahar wounded an Afghan Voters Registration Worker. (AFP)

8th July
A Taliban Commander, Mullah Mujahid was captured by coalition forces in Kandahar province. (AP)

Three Americans and four Afghans were arrested in Kabul by Afghan security forces for illegally running a private detention centre, where seven Afghan nationals were held illegally. (AFP)

9th July
A UN election worker was killed and 2 other were injured in a bomb blast in Nangarhar Province. (AFP)

The Dutch Parliament has approved the deployment of between 120 to 150 Dutch troops in Afghanistan for providing security during the upcoming elections. (NNI)

12th July
A bomb exploded in crowded market in Herat city, killing five and injuring 29 persons. (AP)

13th July
A person who was trying to plant a bomb in Khogyani District of Nangarhar, died when the bomb exploded in his hands. (Online)

Seven Hundred former militia soldiers surrendered their arms in Herat under the UN Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme. (NNI)

US and Afghan soldiers recovered a large quantity of ammunition from a house in Paktya. (The Nation)

14th July
An Arab man blew himself up to avoid capture after the Afghan security forces cornered him in Khogyani District of Nangarhar. (AP)

The Police Chief of Miana Shien District of Kandahar was killed in attack by Taliban fighters. (AP)

16th July
The United Nations pulled out its staff from Ghor Province after its compound was ransacked by an angry mob, following a skirmish between Afghan National Army and local militia in which two soldiers of the militia were killed. (AFP)

17th July
Turkey will establish a 200 member Provincial Reconstruction Team at Takhar Province. (NNI)

Portugal will send 24 soldiers and a C-130 aircraft to join ISAF forces in Afghanistan. (Online)

20th July
US troops arrested ex-Taliban commander, Ghulam Mohammad Hotak, in Wardak Province. (Online)

Malik Zarin, commander of the 9th regiment, was shot and wounded by unidentified attackers in Kabul. (AP)

22nd July
Afghan security forces in Oruzgan captured Taliban commander Mulla Anmanullah, who is also the brother-in-law of Taliban leader Mulla Omar. (AP)

23rd July
Taliban fighters in Helmand Province killed 11 Pro Government militiamen in an ambush. (Agencies)

26th July
Eight Afghan Army troops were injured in a friendly fire incident in Oruzgan, when the US forces bombarded their position by mistake. (Reuters)

ISAF found and defused a cache of arms and ammunition near Kabul Airport. (NNI)

Pakistani tribesmen have taken hostage eight afghan militiamen in Bajuar after a clash over the collection of taxes. (AP)

27th July
A remote controlled device exploded near the car carrying Khan Mohammad, the Police Chief of Kandahar. The explosion damaged the car but no one was injured in the blast. (AP)

28th July
Hungary has sent 74 additional soldiers to Afghanistan increasing, the total number of Hungarian soldiers in ISAF to 156. (AFP)

Two rockets were fired at Herat Airport by unidentified attackers. The rockets did not cause any damage or injuries. (AFP)

29th July
Six people, including two UN election workers were killed in a blast inside a mosque in Ghazni province. (AFP)

Ammunition depot near Kabul blew up after being hit by rocket fired by unidentified attackers. No one was injured in the attack. (Reuters)

Suspected Taliban fighters set fire to six Pakistani trucks and kidnapped their drivers in Spin Boldak, however the security forces recovered the drivers after a firefight with the kidnappers. (Online)

30th July
Police in Kabul captured a man carrying a bag of explosives and recovered seven rockets hidden in a fruit cart. (AP)

Spain will deploy 500 troops in Afghanistan to provide security during presidential elections. (NNI)

A US military advisor and two Afghan soldiers were killed in a clash with renegade commanders in Ghor. (Reuters)

Other News

8th July
Authorities in Sistan province of Iran have arrested and deported 10,876 Afghans, who were living there 'illegally'. (NNI)

9th July
Eleven persons were killed and 44 injured when a bus crashed on Kandahar-Kabul Highway. (AP)

14th July
Government of Pakistan and UNHCR has decided to discontinue all assistance to the new refugee camps, established in NWFP and Baluchistan in the aftermath of Afghan war in 2001. (SANA)

15th July
Russian border guards seized 120 Kilograms of heroine, being smuggled from Afghanistan to Tajikistan. (Online)

16th July
According to UNHCR, more than 200,000 Afghan refugees have returned to their country from Pakistan so far in 2004, under the Voluntary Repatriation Programme. (The Nation)

18th July
At least sixteen people have been killed and more than 200 houses destroyed in severe flooding in Northern provinces of Afghanistan including Balkh, Baghlan, Badakhshan and Samangan. (Agencies)

19th July
Afghanistan has released 66 Pakistani prisoners, who were captured in 2001 while fighting for Taliban regime. (AFP)

20th July
Two children were killed when their house collapsed in an earthquake in Khost Province. (AFP)

28th July
Three workers were killed and twenty two were injured when an under construction hospital building collapsed in Kabul. (PPI)

29th July
International Aid Organization, Medicines Sans Frontier (MSF) has pulled out of Afghanistan due to adverse security situation. (NNI)

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News Summary for August-2004

Aid and Economic Development

1st August
A $35 million grant has been approved by World Bank to improve access to, and quality of education in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

A Russian company, RZD, has reached initial agreements on building railways in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

The India based Punjab National Bank (PNB) has opened a branch in Kabul. (Agencies)

Pakistan Government has finalized the feasibility report for laying a railway track between Chaman and Kandahar. (Agencies)

4th August
World Bank has approved $145 million grants and loans for reconstruction of Afghanistan. (PPI)

Pakistan Based Habib Bank Limited opened a branch in Kabul. (APP)

Pakistan handed over 35 trucks to Afghan Government as a goodwill gesture. (APP)

10th August
Asian Development Bank (ADB) is preparing a road development master plan and improvement project for Afghanistan through a technical assistance of $2 million. (APP)

Swiss Skies AG has announced that it will offer weekly direct air service between Paris and Kabul. (NNI)

13th August
A media training centre has been opened in Journalism Department of Khost University by Sayara NGO as part of Novice Journalism Training Programme (NJTP). (NNI)

20th August
USAID has granted $1.42 million to Afghanistan for creating a national telecommunications system, connecting Kabul with all the 34 provinces. (NNI)

24th August
Iran is financing the construction of Sangan-Herat railway construction and has allocated 60 billion Rials for the current year. The project is expected to be completed by 2007 and will cost 540 billion Rials. (SANA)

Political Developments

2nd August
According to UN, 90% of eligible Afghans have been registered as voters for he forthcoming Afghan elections. (AFP)

6th August
All provincial Governors and heads of Provincial Accounts Departments have arrived in Kabul to attend a meeting to be chaired by President Karzai. The meeting will review the problems being faced by the provinces. (NNI)

9th August
Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, chief of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, has announced his support for president Karzai in the upcoming presidential elections. (The Nation)

10th August
Sabir Momin, a former Taliban commander announced that he no longer recognize the leadership of Mulla Omar and that he along with other former Taliban leaders have formed a new group, Taliban Jamiat Jaish-e-Muslimeen under the leadership of Mulla Syed Mohammad Agha. ((Reuters)

12th August
National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), a Washington based NGO, has

opened training centers in Kabul, to provide training and awareness for people on the voting procedure in the upcoming elections. (NNI)

An independent Information Commission, comprising of four Afghans and two foreigners have been established to monitor the presidential elections. (APP)

US Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, visited Kabul on a day-long visit and held talks with Afghan President Karzai and other officials. (SANA)

17th August

The Republican Party of Afghanistan has announced its support for President Karzai in the upcoming presidential elections.(NNI)

19th August

150 prominent members of Hizb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar) have announced support for Afghan President Karzai. (The Nation)

Afghan Presidential candidate Abdul Satar Seerat announced that if President Karzai did not resign within a week, the other 17 candidates will withdraw from the presidential elections as a protest. (AFP)

20th August

Afghan President Karzai has dismissed the demand from rival presidential candidates that he should resign before the October elections, terming the demands unlawful. (AFP)

22nd August

Elders of Paktia province has demanded that voters registration process should be restarted in Paktia because a large number of eligible voters in the province are still unregistered. (PPI)

Joint Elections Management Body (JEMB) of Afghanistan, with a $80,000 grant from USAID, has launched an elections awareness campaign through various independent radio stations in Afghanistan. (NNI)

24th August

Afghan President Karzai arrived in Islamabad on a two days official visit. He met with Pakistani President Pervaiz Musharaf and other high officials. Both the leaders agreed to further enhance bilateral relations and continue to cooperate in fight against terrorism. They also pledged to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. (The News)

Commander Amanullah has accused his rival, Ismail Khan, Governor of Herat, of breaking the spirit of ceasefire by transporting 2500 men into Herat city and providing them weapons smuggled from Iran. Ismail Khan has rejected these allegations. (AP)

25th August

According to UNAMA, at least 10.3 million Afghans have registered as voters at the close of registration process. (PPI)

Five Afghan anti government groups have announced a joint strategy to disrupt the presidential elections through attacks on polling stations. (The News)

26th August

Afghan presidential candidate, Yunus Qanooni has accused President Karzai of failing to combat drugs, disarm militias and live up to Afghans expectations. (AFP)

27th August

The Afghan Millat Party has announced that it will support Afghan President Karzai in the up coming presidential elections. (PPI)

Pakistan's ambassador to UN has rejected the comments of UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan, in which he has said that Taliban fighters are crossing over from Pakistan for attacks inside Afghanistan and that Pakistan should do more to stop them. (Agencies)

30th August

Former Education Minister, Yunos Qanuni has denied the news of his withdrawl from presidential elections. (NNI)

Security Matters

1st August

Two rockets hit a Korea sponsored construction site in Kabul. No one was inured in the attack. (Agencies)

US Government has strongly warned US citizens against travel to Afghanistan due to increased security threats. (NNI)

3rd August

Suspected Taliban fighters killed the governor of Khan Shirin District of Helmand Province and his four bodyguards. (Online)

Two Taliban fighters and two Afghan soldiers were killed in a clash in Khost Province. (Agencies)

4th August
According to US military sources, around 40 to 50 Taliban fighters were killed in clashes with coalition forces in Khost. (AP)

A vehicle carrying a government official, a judge and his three children was hit by an explosive device in Logar province, killing the three children. (AP)

5th August
Unidentified attackers in Paktia Province killed two Afghan workers of a German NGO Maltese Order. (AFP)

6th August
Germany will send 60 more troops to Afghanistan to help in ensuring security during upcoming presidential elections. (NNI)

7th August
Five US soldiers were wounded in Oruzgan and three in Zabul during clashes with anti coalition forces. (Reuters)

Afghan National Army soldiers and Herat policemen clashed in Herat. Two army soldiers were wounded and ten policemen were kidnapped by the army. (AFP)

8th August
Two elections workers were killed in Oruzgan when Taliban fighters attacked their convoy. (AP)

9th August
Two US soldiers and an Afghan interpreter were killed when their vehicle hit an explosive device in Ghazni. Taliban claimed responsibility for planting the explosive device. (AP)

10th August
Six Taliban fighters were killed in a clash with Afghan Army in Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar. (Reuters)

Five Taliban commanders were captured by Afghan Army during a raid on a house in Tirin Kot, capital of Oruzgan province. (AFP)

11th August
Eurocorps – The five-nation defence force made up of troops from France, Germany, Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg – took command of ISAF for six months. (Online)

13th August
Mulla Janan, a known Taliban leader, was killed in a clash with coalition forces in Alishing district of Laghman. (Reuters)

Unidentified attackers threw grenades at the office of Daily Naw in Kandahar. (NNI)

14th August
One US soldier was killed and twelve injured when their helicopter crashed in Khost. (AFP)

17th August
1,500 Afghan National Army troops moved into Heart and took control of Shindand Airbase and main entrance to Heart city after fighting erupted between the militias of Ismail Khan and Amanullah. (AFP)

Seven Taliban fighters were killed and eleven captured in a clash with coalition forces in Maruf District of Kandahar Province. (AP)

Taliban fighters in Khan-e-Chopan village in Kandahar province killed seven Afghan soldiers. (AFP)

18th August
Spain has started deploying additional troops in Afghanistan. Spain will have 1,040 troops in Afghanistan before the October elections. (AFP)

US ambassador to Afghanistan has brokered a ceasefire between Ismail Khan, Governor of Herat and commander Amanullah. Troops loyal to Ismail Khan and Amanullah have been fighting for several days in Herat. (Reuters)

21st August
A series of explosions in a voters registration centre in Farah injured six policemen and damaged several vehicles parked in the centre. (AP)

22nd August
One government soldier and two Taliban fighters were killed in fighting when a group of 80 Taliban fighters attacked district headquarters of Miana Shien district in Kandahar Province. (PPI)

One hundred and three Afghan military recruiters graduated from Afghan National Army Recruiting Academy in Kabul. (NNI)

23rd August
Netherlands will send six F-16, a refueling plane and a transport plane to Afghanistan as part of the ISAF peacekeeping force. (SANA)

Three civilians were killed when US forces fired on a vehicle carrying them after the vehicle failed to stop at the check post in Ghazni province. US military has apologized for the incident. (AFP)

24th August

Pakistan and Afghanistan have launched a major operation against Al Qaeeda fighters in border areas of North Waziristan Agency and Khost. (The Nation)

Afghan National Army has arrested 16 Taliban fighters in Zabul Province. (NNI)

25th August

The coalition forces arrested eight militiamen of Ismail Khan in Herat on charges of firing on a coalition patrol. (NNI)

Commander of Nangarhar Border Security Force, Abdul Zahir escaped unharmed when his car hit a landmine in Nangarhar. (PPI)

26th August

ISAF troops and Afghan intelligence agents recovered large quantities of weapons and arrested nine persons when they raided two compounds in Chahar Asiab. (AFP)

Hundreds of suspected Taliban militants, held by US military in Afghanistan since 2001 war will be tried in Afghan courts under Afghan law. (Reuters)

30th August

Ten people including nine children were killed when a bomb exploded in a school in Zurmat district of Paktia. (AFP/Reuters)

At least ten persons were killed and many more were injured when a truck bomb exploded outside the office of an American security firm, DynCorp, in Kabul. The dead include Americans, Nepalese and Afghans. (AFP/Reuters)

Twenty two Taliban fighters were captured by US and Afghan forces in Zabul province in a joint operation. (PPI)

Commander Amanullah has been arrested in Herat by central government and has been brought to Kabul. The militias of Amanullah and Ismail Khan, Governor of Herat, were involved in serious clashes during past few weeks. (PPI)

31st August

The US Government has issued a warning to its citizens in Kabul to keep a low profile following the bombing of the office an American security firm, which killed 10 persons including 3 Americans. (AP)

Other News

4th August

A council of religious scholars in Afghanistan have declared cultivation of poppy illegal according to Sharia Law of Islam. (Reuters)

7th August

Authorities in Kabul have charged an Afghan man, Reza Khan, with the killing of four journalists in 2001, who were traveling between Jalalabad and Kabul. (Online)

8th August

The number of refugees returning home this year has passed 500,000 mark, with more than 270,000 returning from Iran and 230,000 from Pakistan. (Agencies)

9th August

NGOs working in Afghanistan have rejected a suggestion by US military that NGOs should arrange armed escorts for their staff, saying that presence of guns would do little to deter militants and could provoke more attacks. (AFP)

11th August

The former king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, registered as voter for the upcoming elections in Afghanistan. (Online)

14th August

According to UN, Kabul has become the world's largest centre of debilitating skin disease, leishmaniasis, with estimated 67,000 cases. (NNI)

19th August

UNHCR will close 12 Afghan refugee camps in Baluchistan and NWFP by the end of August 2004. These camps were established for refugees escaping 2001 Afghan war. (Online)

23rd August

The UN appointed independent human rights expert in Afghanistan has demanded that the US military should open its detention centers in Afghanistan to independent inspectors to determine the legality of the detentions. He

also called upon Afghan government to release some 725 Taliban fighters captured in 2001. (SANA)

A UN spokesman in Afghanistan said that UN has no plans to withdraw from Afghanistan. The announcement was made after the UN Staff Union in New York called on UN Secretary General to consider withdrawing all UN staff from Afghanistan due to adverse security situation. (Reuters)

25th August

Repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran resumed after one week suspension due to factional fighting in Herat. (Online)

28th August

Basu camp in Kurram Agency of Pakistan has closed after all of its residents chose to repatriate to Afghanistan. They were given a choice to repatriate to Afghanistan or to relocate to one of the old camps on their own after aid is cut off to new camps, including Basu, by the end of August 2004. (Agencies)

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News Summary for September-2004

Aid and Economic Development

2nd September
Asian Development Bank (ADB) will give Afghanistan $600 million in soft loans and grants for various reconstruction projects over the next three years. (AFP)

3rd September
India will train Afghan diplomats under an agreement signed in New Delhi by the two countries. (PPI)

4th September
Afghan Government and UN have launched an appeal for $71 million to help 6.3 million Afghans affected by drought that is now in the sixth year. (PPI)

5th September
Asian Development Bank has given a grant of $750,000 to Afghanistan for improving the gas supply in the country. (NNI)

16th September
The Ghazni based 'Radio Ghaznawiyan' become the first independent radio station launched by private sector. The station is funded by USAID while Internews provides technical support and training. (NNI)

18th September
A Canadian NGO, Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), has announced that it will send medical supplies worth $2.1 million to Afghanistan. (NNI)

22nd September
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy has pledged Euros 5 million in support of the UNODC Criminal Justice Reform Programme in Afghanistan. (PPI)

24th September
Pakistan handed over a consignment of 30 trucks to the Government of Afghanistan, which marked the completion of the donation of 200 trucks to Afghanistan. (NNI)

25th September
USA is launching a venture capital fund worth $50 million to help small and medium sized businessmen in Afghanistan. (NNI)

UNDP in collaboration with Afghan ministries of Development, Finance and Women Affairs have launched a $100,000 leadership course for Afghan female civil servants. (NNI)

Political Developments

1st September
Mr. Siddiq Chakari, a key Jamait-e-Islami leader has been appointed as an advisor to President Karzai. (PPI)

Gen Mohammad Daud, who served as the commander of Afghan Army's 6th corps in Kunduz has been appointed as Deputy Interior Minister of Afghanistan. (AFP)

2nd September
The leader of Hizb-e-Islami (Hekmatyar), Gulbadin Hekmatyar has urged Afghans to boycott the presidential elections, saying that the candidates are the representatives of USA and UK. (Reuters)

3rd September
President Karzai has appointed Ahmad Mushahid to serve as the Minister for Education. (NNI)

Afghan Supreme Court has called on the Afghan Government and UNAMA to disqualify Latif Pedram from running as candidate in presidential elections because of his comments against polygamy. The Court considers these comments to be against *Sharia* (Islamic Law). (Reuters)

5th September
A group of scholars and elders from Paktia, Paktika and Khost have announced their support for the Afghan President Karzai in the upcoming Presidential elections. (NNI)

8th September
International Organization for Migration (IOM) will start registration of Afghan voters in Pakistan from October 1-3, 2004. (APP)

9th September
European Union has decided to send fifty observers to Afghanistan to monitor presidential election to be held on October 9, 2004. (PPI)

12th September
The training of 15 national and 7 international election officials started in Islamabad under Out of Country Registration and Voting programme. These officials will train more than 10,000 staff needed to run the polling stations for presidential elections of October 9th, 2004. (Online)

13th September
Afghan President Karzai has replaced Ismail Khan as Governor of Herat and appointed Mr. Mohammad Khairkhwa as his replacement. Ismail Khan has been offered the post of Minister for Mines in the central government, but he has refused the post saying he prefers to live as a private citizen in Herat. (Reuters)

17th September
150 commanders affiliated with Hizb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar) have announced their support for President Karzai in the upcoming presidential elections. (NNI)

20th September
Afghan President Karzai left for New York to attend the UN General Assembly and hold meetings with other world leaders. (Agencies)

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has prepared a team of election monitors, headed by Ambassador Robert Barry, for monitoring the Afghan Presidential elections. (NNI)

22nd September
The elders at Shamshatoo Refugee Camp in Peshawar have announced a boycott of October 9 presidential elections, sighting the law and order situation inside the camp. (The Nation)

Afghan Presidential candidate, Yunus Qanooni has denied the reports that he has reached an agreement with President Karzai, saying that he still is in the race. He also called for free and transparent elections. (AFP/NNI)

24th September
The elders of Tarzay tribe in Khost have asked the members of their tribe to vote for President Karzai. (AFP)

27th September
Former commander of Kunar Province, Moalam Said Jan has announced his support for president Karzai in the upcoming elections. (The Nation)

29th September
Presidential candidate, Younis Qanooni has appointed Eng. Miskeen, a former Hizb-i-Islami activist, the in-charge of his election campaign in Peshawar. (The News)

Gen. Rashid Dostum launched his election campaign in Shiberghan by addressing a rally attended by tens of thousands of people. (Reuters)

30th September
The head of Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigration Affairs in Iran has said that 700,000 refugees living in Iran are eligible to vote in the Afghan presidential elections on October 9. (NNI)

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has issued a report saying that the warlord factions are threatening voters, candidates and political organizers in Afghanistan. (NNI)

Security Matters

1st September
Eight persons were killed when US warplanes bombed a village in Pech Darra area of Kunar province. The bombing was in response to an attack on the US military base in the area. (AP)

2nd September
Kabul has been declared free of heavy weapons as the last of the big guns were pulled out of Kabul. (AP)

3rd September
Suspected Taliban fighters in Deh Rawood District of Oruzgan Province injured three Afghan soldiers in an attack. (AP)

5th September
ISAF and Afghan security forces impounded two vehicles in Kabul and recovered large amount of ammunition packed in the vehicles. (NNI)

8th September
The office of Agha Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Faizabad, was attacked by an angry mob, who stoned and burned the office, accusing AKDN of converting locals to Ismaili sect. AKDN Has denied the accusations. (Reuters)

11th September
Five rockets were fired at Kabul by unidentified attackers, injuring a woman and a child. (AFP)

12th September
Two suspected Taliban fighters were killed and a US soldier was injured in clashes between US troops and anti government fighters in Zabul and Oruzgan province. (Agencies)

13th September
Seven persons were killed in clashes with security forces during demonstrations in Herat. The demonstrators were protesting against the removal of Ismail Khan from the governorship of Herat. The protesters burned and looted the offices of UNHCR, UNDP and UNAMA and damaged Consulate of Pakistan. (Reuters)

14th September
22 Taliban and Al Qaeeda fighters were killed and three captured in clashes with US troops in Zabul Province. (AFP)

International staff of aid agencies started leaving Herat after violent demonstration against ouster of Ismail Khan. Offices of several NGOs and UN were burned protestors. Ismail Khan has appealed to his supporters to restore calm and not indulge in violence. Night curfew has been imposed in Herat (AP/NNI)

17th September
A rocket was fired at the helicopter carrying President Karzai as it was landing in Gardez. The rocket missed the target and exploded without causing any damage. The president was immediately flown back to Kabul after the attack. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack and authorities in Gardez have arrested three suspected Taliban fighters in connection with the attack. (The News)

Italy has advised it's citizens not to travel to Afghanistan due to security threats. (AP)

18th September
900 people have been killed in political violence in Afghanistan during 2004. (APP)

19th September
Suspected Taliban fighters killed two tribal leaders and injured another in Maruf District of Kandahar. According to authorities, Taliban targeted these tribal leaders because they were encouraging the locals to participate in the elections. (Agencies)

President Karzai has said that foreign troops will remain in Afghanistan until Afghan security forces are able to ensure security in the country. (Reuters)

21st September
Suspected Taliban fighters have beheaded three Afghan soldiers in Zabul. (Reuters)

22nd September
Armed assailants attacked the compound of Afghanaid NGO in Nuristan. They beat the local staff and tried to burn the compound but were stopped by local people. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. (AFP)

23rd September
A US soldier died in an attack on his patrol in Khost. (AP)

Six suspected Taliban fighters were killed in clashes with US forces in Zabul. (PPI)

Bulgaria will send four military surgeons and a nurse to Afghanistan to serve with ISAF. (NNI)

US has released 10 Afghan prisoners from Guantanamo Bay, on the request of the Afghan Government. According to Afghan Government spokesman, these prisoners, including former Taliban leader, Naim Kuchi, have shown their support for peace in Afghanistan. (AP)

24th September
US is sending 1,100 additional soldiers to Afghanistan to provide security during presidential elections. (PPI)

Afghan security forces have arrested five militants including a commander of Hizb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar) in Logar. (AFP)

5th January
An explosion occurred, without causing injuries or damage, near the site of Constitutional Loya Jirga at Kabul. (NNI)

Three persons were arrested in Kabul in connection with suicide bombing which killed four Afghan intelligence officials and the suicide bomber last month. Several home-made bombs were recovered from their possession. (AP)

6th January
Suspected Taliban militants have kidnapped an Afghan employee of the Christian Emergency Relief Organization, along with the vehicle he was driving in Zabul province. (AP)

7th January
Unidentified attackers fired and hurled a grenade at UNHCR office in Kandahar, without causing any injuries. (AFP)

At least 15 people were killed and more than 70 injured in an explosion at Manzalbagh district of Kandahar. Taliban have initially denied responsibility for the explosion, but later apologized for the loss of civilian life in the incident. (AFP)

12th January
The outgoing UN envoy to Afghanistan, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi has said that 5,000 to 10,000 extra peacekeeping troops are needed to guarantee security in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

200 soldiers were disarmed in Kabul as part of the ongoing disarmament process. (NNI)

According to Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, around 3,000 soldiers have deserted from Afghan National Army. (AFP)

13th January
Suspected Taliban fighters have killed 4 policemen in an attack in Nimroz province. (AP/AFP)

A small explosive device exploded outside the office of ACTED in Mazar-e-Sharif, lightly injuring a local man and causing slight damage to the building. (AP/AFP)

14th January
Afghan security forces recovered 4 stinger missiles in a village north of Kabul. (SANA)

15th January
Coalition forces have seized hundreds of rockets, artillery and mortar rounds, hidden in mountains of Khost. (AFP)

16th January
Removal of heavy weapons from Kabul started when ISAF collected hundreds of missiles and rocket launchers and other weapons from the local militias. (AFP)

20th January
According to local government officials, 11 people including 4 children were killed in US bombing in a village near Kandahar. US forces has denied any civilian deaths in the incidents. (AP/AFP)

3 US soldiers were injured in attack on their base in Oruzgan province. One attacker was also killed in the encounter. (Agencies)

22nd January
4 persons, including two wearing *Burqas* and carrying grenades were arrested by authorities in Kandahar on suspicion of planning bomb attacks. (APP)

26th January
US planes bombed several areas in Kunar after one of US military bases in Kunar came under rocket attack. There is no word on extent of damage or causalities. (Reuters)

27th January
4 Afghan soldiers were killed and 3 wounded after soldiers opened fire on one another in case of mistaken identity at a check-post in Helmand. (AP)

Pakistani authorities are questioning the former Taliban governor, Mulla Abdul Mannan Khwahazai, who was arrested in Chaman by Pakistani security forces. (AFP)

28th January
A Canadian soldier was killed and three other injured in a suicide bombing attack in Kabul. (Agencies)

29th January
A British soldier was killed and nine other foreigners were injured in a suicide attack in Kabul. (AP)

30th January
7 US soldiers were killed and 3 injured when a weapons cache they were working around exploded in Ghazni. (AFP/Reuters)

USA has warned its citizens to stay off the streets of Kabul following two suicides bombings this week. (AFP)

31st January
Afghan Government has sent a 300 strong police contingent from Kabul for deployment in Kandahar to ensure local security. (NNI)

26th September
Suspected Taliban fighters killed 9 Afghan soldiers in attacks on several check posts along the road from Helmand to Farah. (Reuters)

UK has deployed six jet fighters at Kandahar to provide air support to ISAF troops. (NNI)

27th September
Afghan soldiers killed Senior Taliban commander, Mulla Abdul Ghaffar along with two other Taliban fighters during a gun battle in Oruzgan. (AP)

28th September
A truck with huge amount of explosives was seized and its owner arrested by Afghan security forces as the truck tried to enter Kabul. (Online)

Other News

9th September
Afghan Planning Minister has said that attacks on NGOs in Afghanistan are inevitable because there is a widespread perception that NGOs are wasting money that should have been spent on development of Afghanistan. (AFP)

More than 20,000 Afghans gathered in Kabul to commemorate the third death anniversary of Northern Alliance military commander, Ahmad Shah Masood, who was killed by Al Qaeeda operatives on September 9, 2001. (PPI)

12th September
A large forest fire has broken out in Kajgal forest in Nari District of Kunar. Efforts by government and local population are underway to put out the fire. (NNI)

13th September
363 Pakistanis, who were captured in Afghanistan fighting for Taliban during 2001 war, have been released from Afghan prisons and sent to Pakistan. (Agencies)

16th September
UNHCR has resumed its operation in Herat, which were suspended after violent demonstrations in Herat following the removal of Ismail Khan from the post of the Governor. (AFP)
Three US citizens accused of illegally detaining and torturing Afghans in Kabul were found guilty by a court in Kabul and sentenced up to ten years in prison. (AP)

20th September
In Pul-e-Khumri Five members of a family including two women were killed when an artillery shell exploded as they were stripping old ammunition to sell as scrap. (Reuters)

21st September
Several villages in Nangarhar including Spin Ghar, Shinwari, Khunjano and Kuchino, are facing severe water shortage due to drought in the area. (NNI)

24th September
IOM has hired 1000 people to perform registration and election duties in the out of country presidential elections in Pakistan (NNI).

25th September
According to US State Department official, poppy cultivation in Afghanistan is expected to rise by 40% this year. (AFP)

An Afghan national, Bader Zaman Bader, who has been released from Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility after spending three years there, has demanded compensation from the US Government for his detention. (NNI)

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News Summary for October-2004

Aid and Economic Development

1st October
Iran is planning to increase the value of its industrial exports to Afghanistan by 50% - to $300 million – this year. (NNI)

2nd October
President Karzai inaugurated the rebuilt and renovated Afghanistan's National Museum at Kabul. (Online)

3rd October
As part of its €400 million package to Afghanistan for 2003-04, European Commission has approved the sixth reconstruction programme for Afghanistan with the total budget of €34 million. (Agencies)

6th October
Chinese Government donated a large quantity of office equipment and recreational material to the Afghan Government. (NNI)

7th October
Afghan Ministry of communications has awarded the $3.6 million contract for the World Bank sponsored project for reconstruction of communication infrastructure in Afghanistan to Globecomm Systems. (NNI)

21st October
Plan Pakistan, part of the UK based charity Plan International, has donated live saving medicine worth $100,000 to the UNHCR for the benefit of Afghan Refugees living in Pakistan. (Online)

23rd October
Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) has constructed a 50-bed hospital in the Sholgara district of Balkh Province. (The News)

German Agro Action (GAA) is constructing 180 wells in eastern Afghanistan. These wells will also be fitted with hand pumps. (Online)

24th October
Afghan Ministry of Commerce and UNDP will establish a network of 'Business Advisory Centers' (BAC) in Afghanistan. The BACs will provide a range of business education and development services to Afghan businessmen. (NNI)

29th October
The president of Iran's Chamber of Commerce has announced that Iran will take part in the International trade fair to be held in Kabul on November 20, 2004. (Online)

Political Developments

1st October
IOM has setup 1,666 registration/polling stations at more than 600 locations in Pakistan for Afghans living in Pakistan for the upcoming presidential elections. (Online)

4th October
The three-day Afghan voters registration campaign in Pakistan. Originally planned for October 1-3, has been extended by one day by IOM. (AFP)

6th October
A Japanese electoral team arrived in Kabul to monitor the Presidential elections scheduled for October 9. (NNI)

7th October
According to IOM, more than 740,000 Afghans living in Pakistan registered as voters during the four-day registration campaign. (AFP)

Afghanistan's former king Zahir Shah announced his support for President Karzai in the upcoming presidential elections. (AFP)

10th October
Polling for Afghan Presidential elections were held in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran without any major incidents. All presidential candidates except President Karzai announced their boycott of the elections alleging fraud. (Agencies)

13th October
The Joint Election Management Board (JEMB) has asked UN to constitute an independent panel to investigate the allegations of irregularities during the presidential elections. (Online)

Two of the main challengers to President Karzai in the presidential elections, Yunus Qanooni and Mohammad Mohaqiq have withdrawn their boycott of the elections. (NNI/Reuters)

14th October
Gen. Rashid Dostum has withdrawn the boycott of presidential polls and has said that he will support the UN investigation into alleged election irregularities. (Agencies)

The deadline for complaints about the Afghan presidential elections has been extended from 12th to 14th October. (AFP)

15th October
Vote counting in Afghan presidential got underway in four counting centers at Kabul, Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz. (AP)

According to initial estimates by JEMB, more than 75% of 10.5 million Afghans who registered as voters have cast their vote in the presidential elections. (AP)

19th October
Former Taliban Foreign Minister Maulvi Wakeel Ahmad Mutawakkil has decided to form a new political party. (Online)

23rd October
Former Taliban commander Mulla Abdul Salam Raketti has said that he is wiling to work with the elected government of Afghanistan and many other Taliban leaders are also eager for reconciliation with the Government. (SANA)

27th October
Afghan Presidential candidate, Dr. Masooda Jalal has said that she accepts the results of Presidential elections. (Agencies)

A Taliban Spokesman has denied reports that some Taliban leaders are negotiating with the Afghan Government and US authorities for giving up armed resistance and entering in the Afghan political process. (The News)

28th October
With nearly all votes counted in the Afghan Presidential elections, Hamid Karzai has emerged the winner by securing 55% of the ballots cast. Official results are expected to be announced on 31st October. (AFP)

Security Matters

1st October
Twelve Afghan soldiers were killed in clashes with suspected Taliban fighters in Zabul. (AP)

Four persons, including two German soldiers were injured in a rocket attack on German PRT base in Kunduz. (AFP)

2nd October
A suspected Taliban fighter was injured in Kandahar City when the bomb he was carrying on his bicycle exploded. (AFP)

NATO has expanded its peacekeeping forces to five more cities besides Kabul, including Mazar-e-Sharif, Faizabad, Baghlan, Maimana and Kunduz. (AP)

Pakistan has beefed up security on its border with Afghanistan for the Afghan presidential elections to be held on October 9. (AP)

4th October
Unknown attackers burned down an Afghan Voter Registration Centre setup in a refugee camp in Hangu, Pakistan. The attack happened at mid-night when the centre was empty. The school where the centre was setup was slightly damaged. (The News)

Two man, who were planting an explosive device outside President Karzai's campaign office in Logar died when the bomb exploded prematurely. (AFP)

More than 25 suspected Taliban supporters were arrested by Afghan security forces during raids in Kabul. (Online)

6th October
Three electoral workers were injured in an attack by suspected Taliban fighters in Jaji Maidan district of Khost. (AFP)

Afghan security forces killed Seven Taliban fighters and arrested five other during a raid in Oruzgan Province. (Agencies)

9th October
Three Taliban fighters were killed in a clash with Afghan security forces in Kandahar. Afghan National Army soldiers seized a truck, with explosives hidden in its tyres, as it was entering Kandahar city. (Reuters)

10th October
US forces killed 25 Taliban fighters in Oruzgan. (AP)

12th October
The Czech Republic will donate six metric tonnes of ammunition to the Afghan National Army. (AP)

14th October
German Defense Minister has rejected the US proposal to have NATO take over the US-led military mission in Afghanistan, saying that the proposal is not conducive to security building in Afghanistan. (SANA)

16th October
Afghan Security forces have recovered 10 surface to air missiles from eastern Afghanistan. (NNI)

17th October
A remote control bomb exploded near a truck supplying food to US base in Kunar, killing five persons. (NNI)

Two US soldiers were killed and three injured when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Oruzgan. (NNI)

18th October
Unidentified attackers fired three rockets at the residential area of Kabul, injuring two civilians. (NNI)

19th October
One election worker and four other persons were killed when the vehicle they were traveling in hit an explosive device in Paktika. (AFP)

20th October
Suspected Taliban fighters fired rockets at US military bases in Kunar and Jalalabad. The attacks did not cause any damage or causalities. (Agencies)

21st October
USA has announced that it will help the Afghan Defense Ministry in reviving the Afghan Air Force. (NNI)

22nd October
Three US soldiers and their Afghan interpreter were injured when the vehicles they were traveling in hit a roadside bomb in Paktika. (PPI)

Afghan National Army arrested two senior Taliban leaders, Mullah Shahabuddin and Mullah Abdul Qahar Akhunzada in Zabul. (NNI)

Unidentified attackers killed Militia commander Aslam and his eight supporters in Badakhshan. (AP)

Japan approved the six months extension for its naval mission providing logistical support to the US led coalition troops in Afghanistan. (AP)

23rd October
The NATO Secretary General has said that NATO is planning to expand its troops into western Afghanistan. (NNI)

24th October
A suicide bomber blew himself up in a busy street in Kabul, killing an Afghan girl and an American woman and injuring six others including three ISAF soldiers. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP/AFP)

One US soldier was injured when the truck he was riding in was hit by a roadside bomb in Nangarhar. (Reuters)

25th October
US military released 17 Afghan prisoners from the detention centre at Bagram Airbase. (Online)

27th October
Afghan security forces have killed three suspected Taliban fighters and arrested thirteen others in various regions of southern Afghanistan. (PPI)

Division 71 in Farah Province surrendered its heavy weapons to the Afghan National Army as part of the disarmament process. (NNI)

Unidentified attackers threw grenades into the house of Herat's Mayor. The attack did not cause in casualties but damaged the house. (NNI)

Spain will withdraw its 500 soldiers currently serving with ISAF in Afghanistan. (Online)

28th October
A roadside bomb exploded near the convoy of US troops in Qalat, Zabul, injuring three US soldiers and their Afghan interpreter. (Reuters)

29th October
Armed men abducted three UN election workers – A British-Irish woman, a woman from Kosovo and a Filipino dimplomat – from Kabul City. Jaish-ul-Muslimeen, a splinter group of Taliban, has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. (AFP)

Afghan Traffic Police has dismantled seven checkpoints along Mazar-e-Sharif – Sheberghan road. These checkpoints were set up by local commanders. (NNI)

Other News

1st October
UNHCR will suspend its Voluntary Repatriation Programme in Pakistan from 1st to 10th October, so that it may not conflict with voter registration and polling for Afghan Presidential elections, scheduled for 1-3 October and 9th October respectively. (NNI)

16th October
Former Afghan King Zahir Shah celebrated his 90th Birthday on 15 October. (NNI)

21st October
Farmers in Badakhshan, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz have threatened that if government did not repair the irrigation system and ensured continuous supply of water, they will return to poppy cultivation. (Agencies)

The Afghan Ministry of Planning has drafted an NGOs Legislation, which is aimed at regulating the working of NGOs in Afghanistan. (NNI)

22nd October
A US military helicopter transporting an injured election worker, crashed in Herat killing one airman and injuring two others. (AP)

23rd October
Two French ISAF peacekeepers were killed when their vehicle overturned near Kabul. (Reuters)

27th October
According to a UNODC report, more than 100,000 hectares are being used for opium cultivation in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

29th October
According to the US military an Afghan in their custody died of heart attack, becoming the fourth known Afghan death in US custody. (AFP)

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News Summary for November-2004

Aid and Economic Development

3rd November
Sweden will give $35 million in aid to Afghanistan to help in the reconstruction efforts in the country. (AFP)

5th November
India has sanctioned a grant of 4 billion Indian Rupees for Afghanistan. The grant will be used to construct a dam in Herat province. (SANA)

6th November
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a grant of $1.96 million for Afghanistan to prepare a project for boosting integrated water resources management and irrigated agriculture development in Afghanistan. (SANA)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has extended a technical assistance grant of $450,000 to address the hazard of growing air pollution in Kabul. (SANA)

11th November
UNHCR, in cooperation with Afghan National Olympic Committee, distributed a large number of sports equipment among the children of twelve schools in Shomali Plains area, north of Kabul. (Online)

12th November
Two NGOs – Life for Relief and Development and Human Concern International – distributed food items among 1,000 orphan children in Nangarhar on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. (NNI)

18th November
United Kingdom has pledged $6.83m to fund a two-year FAO project to help eliminate opium production in Afghanistan by developing alternative livelihoods in the country's main poppy-producing areas. (NNI)

19th November
Voice of America (VoA) held a two workshops in Kabul to train Vo.A journalists from Afghanistan and neighboring countries in various aspects of reporting about narcotics trafficking. (Agencies)

ICRC is distributing winter clothing and hygiene items among 4,000 prisoners detained at various prisons in Afghanistan. (NNI)

20th November
India has pledged $ 25 million for the construction of the new Afghan Parliament building in Kabul. (NNI)

24th November
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted $30 million in soft loan to Afghanistan for repairing the regional airports in the country. (AFP)

The Government of Pakistan will establish seven full-fledged customs stations at different entry and exit points along its border with Afghanistan to regulate trade between the two countries. (The News)

25th November
UNHCR will provide winter aid, including warm cloths, tents and coal heaters to the nomadic Kuchi tribal people in Afghanistan. (NNI)

27th November
Afghan Government has launched a $312 million project, financed by international donors, to centralize and equip district administrations in all 364 districts of Afghanistan. (SANA)

Political Developments

3rd November
The three member panel investigating fraud charges in the Afghan presidential elections has finalized its report and submitted it to the election commission. (AFP)

Afghanistan's Council of Muslim Scholars has condemned the kidnapping of three UN workers as un-Islamic act and called upon the kidnapers to release them immediately. (AFP)

4th November
Hamid Karzai was officially declared as the winner of the Afghan Presidential elections. He secured 55.4% of the total votes. (Agencies)

5th November
President Karzai's main rivals in the presidential race, Yonus Qanooni, Abdul Rashid Dostum and Mohammad Mohaqeq have conceded defeat and accepted the result of the presidential elections. (Agencies)

7th November
President Musharraf of Pakistan met with President Karzai in Kabul during his day long visit of Afghanistan and discussed political, security and economic issues of mutual interest. (The News)

13th November
Taliban leader Mulla Omar in a statement has said that Taliban will continue to fight for liberation of Afghanistan from foreign forces and their Afghan allies. (The News)

22nd November
Gulbadin Hekmatyar, leader of his own faction of Hizb-e-Islami, in a video taped message has called upon Afghans to continue *jihad* against the foreign troops in Afghanistan. (AFP)

26th November
Women in Kabul held a protest demonstration, demanding rights for Afghan women and improvement in law and order situation. (PPI)

Security Matters

1st November
A UN driver was accidentally hit at a checkpoint in Kabul, when the security forces fired at another vehicle, which failed to stop at the check post. (Online)

Kidnappers of the three UN election workers have threaten to execute them by November 3, unless UN and US troops leave Afghanistan and all Taliban prisoners are released. (AFP)

2nd November
Bulgaria has announced that its troops will provide security at Kabul Airport during June – September 2005 period. (Agencies)

Afghan authorities are investigating the possibility of involvement of some government officials in the kidnapping of three UN workers from Kabul. (Reuters)

3rd November
A US soldier was killed and two other were wounded when their patrol was attacked in Paktia. (Online)

Unidentified gunmen killed the police commander of Kosan District of Herat Province. One of the bodyguards of the police commander was also killed in the attack. (AFP)

Afghan Army and Zabul police exchanged fire after the Army troops tried to disarm the policemen at the check post in Qalat. (Online)

5th November
Four persons were killed when the vehicle they were traveling in hit a roadside bomb in Orgun district of Paktika. (AP)

Two homemade bombs exploded outside the offices of USAID and SCA aid agencies in Jalalabad. No one was injured in the blasts. (AFP)

7th November
Portugal has announced that it will send 130 troops to Afghanistan in 2005. (NNI)

8th November
According to UNAMA, 27,000 policemen have been trained so far in Afghanistan under a UN backed plan launched in 2002. Under the plan Afghanistan will have 60,000 strong police force by end of the 2005. (NNI)

10th November
Afghan Intelligence officials have identified the suicide bomber who blew himself up in Kabul last month. The bomber, Matiullah belonged to Hizb-e-Islami (Khalis) group and

is said to have developed some mental illness. (Online)

Four Afghan journalists have asked the abductors of UN workers to free the foreigners as kidnapping 'guests' is against the Afghan tradition and instead take them as hostages. (NNI)

11th November
Two Afghan soldiers and two Taliban fighters were killed in a clash following a rescue attempt by Afghan troops to recover two soldiers kidnapped by Taliban in Kandahar. (Reuters)

12th November
Afghan National Army soldiers arrested six suspected Taliban fighters in Paktia. (The Nation)

18th November
Afghan security forces arrested 16 Taliban fighters, including Commander Shir Mohammad, in Wardak and recovered a large quantity of weapons from their hideout. (NNI)

US Government has warned its citizens against travel to Afghanistan, citing increased threat of kidnapping and assassination against US citizens. (NNI)

19th November
Afghan Security forces captured 24 Taliban fighters including four mid-level commanders in Zabul. (Reuters)

20th November
Seven Afghan soldiers were killed in clashes with suspected Taliban fighters in Helmand. (Online)

23rd November
Afghan And NATO soldiers raided several houses in Kabul in search of the three kidnapped UN workers. Ten persons. were arrested during these raids. (AFP)

US and Afghan forces killed four suspected militants and arrested five more during a raid in a village in Nangarhar Province. (Reuters)

Representatives of Abdul Rashid Dostum in Shiberghan handed over 45 operational tanks and hundreds of tons of ammunition under the UN disarmament programme. (AP)

24th November
The three UN election workers, kidnapped from Kabul by a splinter group of Taliban almost four weeks back, have been released. The kidnappers claimed that the Afghan government has released 24 prisoners in exchanged for the release of the UN workers while according to government sources no deal has been made with the kidnappers. (AFP)

25th November
Suspected Taliban fighters shot dead a local security chief and his two soldiers in Deh Rowood District of Oruzgan Province. (AP)

Two US soldiers were killed and another was wounded when their vehicle hit an explosive device in Deh Rowood District of Oruzgan. Another US soldier was wounded in the in exchange of fire between US troops and suspected Taliban fighters in Nangarhar. One militant was also killed during the exchange of fire. (PPI)

27th November
A freelance British cameraman has been arrested by Kabul Police for negotiating with the kidnappers of three UN election workers. (Agencies)

A remote controlled bomb exploded near vehicle carrying German soldiers in Kunduz. Three German soldiers were wounded in the explosion. (Agencies)

28th November
French soldiers in Kabul shot and killed an Afghan man who fired at their vehicle with automatic weapon. (Online)

30th November
Coalition forces have arrested 40 suspected Taliban supporters in Deh Rawood district of Oruzgan in connection with killing of two US soldiers by an IED in the area. (Online)

A child was killed and a protester was wounded during exchange of fire between security forces and demonstrators in Bati Kot, Nangarhar. The demonstrators were protesting against the arrest of several people from Bati Kot by US forces. (Online)

Relief Organization Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan (VARA) has announced that it considering withdrawing from the region after Taliban fighters attacked its office in Nimroz, killing three of its employees and injuring four policemen. (AP)

Other News

3rd November
Afghan Ministry of Culture has hired 500 persons to protect cultural sites in Afghanistan and prevent the smuggling of Afghan antiquities. (APP)

5th November
According to UNHCR, 120,000 Afghan refugees repatriated from Pakistani province of Balochistan under the UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme during 2004. (Online)

6th November
A former Taliban envoy to the United States, Noorullah Zadran, was arrested in New York for allegedly filing false income tax returns. (SANA)

9th November
Afghan Human rights activist, Habib Rahiab, will receive the Human Rights Watch's award for his services in documenting human rights violations in Afghanistan. (NNI)

11th November
Afghan Minister for Culture has criticized Afghan radio and TV channels for broadcasting too much foreign content and advised them to concentrate more on Afghan programmes. (NNI)

13th November
Afghan Supreme Court has imposed a ban on cable television in Afghanistan. The ban will remain until the Afghan Government enacts a cable broadcasting law. (NNI)

The students of Kabul University ended their five-day protest against the murder of their fellow student after the Vice-President, Mr. Shahrani assured to arrest the alleged murderers. (NNI)

19th November
Around 22,000 valuable artifacts of Kabul Museum, long feared destroyed or stolen, have been found intact and in excellent condition in the vaults of Ministry of Culture, where they were shifted in 1988. (NNI)s

20th November
A Cricket Academy has been established according to the international standards by Afghanistan Cricket Federation (ACF) in Kabul. The Academy has been established with the support of Asian Cricket Council and Roshan Mobile Phone Company. (APP)

21st November
A court in Kabul has sentenced Reza Khan, an Afghan national, to death for killing three foreign and one Afghan journalist in November 2001. (Reuters)

22nd November
A man suspected of links with kidnappers of UN election workers have died in custody of Kabul Police. The family of Kachkol has accused the police of torturing him to death. Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission has launched an inquiry into the incident. (Online)

24th November
Afghan refugees living in the slum areas of I-11 sector, Islamabad have complained that the officials of Capital Development Authority (CDA) are harassing them and have asked them to vacate the area within three days. (The News)

26th November
The former Afghan King, Zahir Shah, awarded the second highest civilian award in Afghanistan – the Order of the Syed Jamaluddin Afghani – to the three UN election workers kidnapped last month by an anti-government group and released last week. (Reuters)

27th November
UNHCR in collaboration with Radio Pakistan has launched a ten minutes radio programme, broadcast twice daily, which provides latest information about situation in Afghanistan and UNHCR's Voluntary Repatriation Programme to the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. (NNI)

29th November
the editors of an anti government weekly magazine, Ghumbasi, from Khost have been warned by the authorities that the magazine will be banned if they don't stop publishing 'irresponsible' articles. (PPI)

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News Summary for December-2004

Aid and Economic Development

1st December
Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation gifted two FM Radio transmitters of five and two kilowatts respectively to Afghanistan. (Online)

6th December
Afghan Central Bank has issued a license to Iran based Aryan Bank to open a branch in Kabul. (NNI)

14th December
New Zealand is providing Afghanistan $3.8 million for rebuilding infrastructure, improving security and supporting local government. (NNI)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) approved Afghanistan's request to open negotiations for membership of the WTO. (AFP)

Afghan Minister for Planning has announced that he has decided to issue an order to close down 1,935 NGOs, including 260 foreign NGOs, working in Afghanistan. The Minister for planning claimed that these NGOs are not sharing the details of their activities with the Government and are working for their own benefits. Representatives of NGOs working in Afghanistan have shown their concern over the statement of the Minister. (Online)

15th December
The German airline, Lufthansa has started twice a week flights between Frankfort and Kabul. (APP)

16th December
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of $80 million for the reconstruction of 210 kilometers Andkhoy-Qaiser Road. (NNI)

18th December
The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be reviving the only sugar factory in Afghanistan at Baghlan, which was shut down in 1979. The two year project will cost 1 million Euros. (AFP)

19th December
Reconstruction of Salma Dam in Herat has begun with the help of $79 million aid package from the Indian Government. (APP)

20th December
Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a $10 million grant for improving irrigation networks and water resource management in Afghanistan. (AFP)

Afghan Government has started work on three small dams in Said Karam district of Paktia province. The dams will be used for irrigation and electricity generation. (online)

24th December
Japan will extend a $3.3 million grant to Afghanistan for building 10 job training centers for former soldiers. (APP)

31st December
Finland has granted 1.1 million Euros to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). (NNI)

The Government of Pakistan has created nine new custom posts at various locations along the border with Afghanistan, to facilitate the Pak-Afghan trade. (The News)

Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) has approved a proposal for backing educational, scientific and cultural institutions in Afghanistan. (NNI)

Other News

2nd January
Afghanistan has donated $150,000 to Iran to help the victims of earthquake at Bam. (Online)

3rd January
The number of Afghans killed in the earthquake the struck the city of Bam in Iran is estimated to be 3000. (SANA)

4th January
WFP, UNHCR and other aid agencies with the assistance of local authorities are helping the Afghans who are returning to Herat from the earthquake hit city of Bam in Iran. (NNI)

7th January
Severe influenza and pneumonia has killed 30 people due to extreme cold conditions in Ghowr province during December 2003. (Agencies)

8th January
Coalition and Afghan forces have destroyed 2 tonnes of opium and other chemicals in a drug laboratory near Kunduz. (AFP)

11th January
British Special Forces are training an elite group of Afghan commandos, whose mission is to destroy big heroin laboratories and confiscate drug caches. (Agencies)

12th January
First batch of 28 Afghan students arrived at Turkmenistan for higher studies under the agreement signed between the two countries. (Online)

The Italian government and UN has jointly launched a programme to train prosecutors and judges in Afghanistan as part of the efforts to improve Afghanistan's judicial system. (Agencies)

As a goodwill gesture before his visit to Kabul, the Pakistani Prime Minister has ordered the release of 149 Afghan nationals from various Pakistani jails. (APP)

13th January
A US soldier died in road accident near Kabul becoming the 100th US casualty in Afghanistan since October 2001. (Agencies)

Two of the nine Afghans on hunger strike in Indonesia have been hospitalized. The Afghans are demanding that they should be given refugee status and transferred to a third country. (Agencies)

14 January
For the first time in 10 years, a female singer was shown performing on Kabul TV. Afghan Supreme Court has condemned the performance and demanded that ban on female singers on Kabul TV should be maintained. (News)

17th January
Security forces in Nangarhar seized 91 kilograms of opium and arrested a man during a raid on a house in Marco village. (AP)

A UNHCR Pakistan Office spokesman has said that, despite the lay-off of more than 160 staff due to budget constraints, its operations for Afghan refugees in Pakistan will continue unimpeded. (NNI)

18th January
At least 10 children have died of whooping cough in Badakhshan province. (Agencies)

19th January
According to a statement by Taliban, Mulla Omar and Osama bin Ladin are in good health. (AFP)

23rd January
The first round of Afghan university entrance test will take place on January 26 2004. (NNI)

26th January
Afghan Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO will undertake a nation wide vaccination campaign against polio form January 26th to 28th 2004. (Agencies)

29th January
'Osama', the first Afghan film made after the fall of Taliban, have been awarded the best foreign movie Golden Globe award at Los Angeles USA. (AFP)

30th January
Afghan Government has released 21 Pakistani prisoners from Afghan jails. (News)

31st January
US authorities have released three Afghan children aged between 13 and 15 from Guantanamo Bay detention centre. They were caught during raids on Taliban camps in Afghanistan. (APP)

Sources: The News, The Nation and Frontier Post

Political Developments

3rd December
A big rally was held in Shindand District of Herat in Support of President Karzai. The rally called upon the President to get rid of the warlords and appoint professionals on the key positions in his government. (NNI)

4th December
US ambassador to Afghanistan has called upon the Taliban to lay down their arms and declare their allegiance to Afghan Government in return for a general amnesty. A Taliban spokesman has rejected the offer. (Online)

6th December
Afghan Foreign Ministry has objected to the remarks of Russian Defence Minister in which he had shown concern over the dominance of Pukhtoons in the political affairs of Afghanistan. (The Frontier Post)

7th December
British Ambassador to Afghanistan has left Kabul for UK after developing differences with President Karzai over the British anti-narcotics policy in Afghanistan. (NNI)

15th December
Afghan Minister for Planning, Ramazan Bashardost, resigned after differences with the Afghan authorities over the handling of NGOs working in Afghanistan. Mr. Bashrdost has recently announced that he plans to shut down more than 1900 national and international NGOs. He had charged that NGOs are spending donor money on themselves, rather then on the Afghan people. (AFP)

20th December
A 20-member delegation of Ahmadzai Wazir tribesmen, living on both side of Pakistan-Afghanistan border, visited Kabul and met President Karzai, offering him their support. President Karzai agreed to initiate developmental activities in their area. (The News).

22nd December
A spokesman for President Karzai has said that the President will appoint the new cabinet according to the provisions of the Afghan Constitution. A person with dual nationality will be appointed Minister only on the condition that he or she renounces their foreign nationality. (AP)

24th December
President Karzai has appointed a new 27-member Afghan Cabinet. The cabinet includes three female ministers. (The News)

25th December
A delegation of the US Congress met president Karzai in Kabul and discussed the issues pertaining to the war on terror, and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. (NNI)

26th December
Former Afghan Education Minister and Presidential Candidate, Yonus Qanooni has formed a new political party called New Afghanistan. (AP)

31st December
According to Afghan Presidential spokesman, Afghan Cabinet Ministers have promised to renounce affiliation with any other political party in order to make the political lineup of the central government non-aligned. (NNI)

Security Matters

3rd December
Gen Rashid Dostum has asked the Ministry of Defense to reward those militiamen who agree do disarm and demobilize by inducting them in the Afghan National Army. (NNI)

4th December
One suspected Taliban fighter was killed and two others were injured when a bomb they were handling exploded. Police found a large quantity of explosives when their house was searched after the explosion. (AP)

5th December
Commander Ayazzudin, loyal to former governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, has been arrested from Parsi district of Herat by Afghan and US forces. According to the spokesman of the Governor of Herat, Ayazzudin was arrested because he was intimidating the local population. (NNI)

7th December
Afghan Intelligence agencies arrested Commander Bakhtyar Malang from Kot district of Nangarhar during the ongoing operation against Taliban and Al Qaeeda in the area. (Online)

10th December
A Turkish engineer, who was abducted by unidentified militants along with his Afghan

interpreter and driver in Kunar, has been killed, while the two Afghans were released by the kidnappers. (AFP)

11th December
US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan launched a new operation, named 'Operation Lightning Freedom' against Al Qaeeda and Taliban fighters. The operation will involve the entire 18,000 strong US military contingent in Afghanistan. (AFP)

13th December
Afghan and Coalition forces have arrested eight Taliban fighters, including two senior commanders, during an operation in Charcheno District of Oruzgan Province. (AFP)

14th December
Three Afghan soldiers were injured in a rocket attack on US military base in Paktika Province. (AP)

16th December
Seven suspected Taliban fighters were killed in the battle with US-led forces in Khost Province. (AFP)

Three Afghan soldiers were injured in a blast inside a military base in Kandahar. (AFP)

17th December
Four Afghan Policemen were killed and two injured when a remote controlled bomb exploded in Khost Province. (AFP)

18th December
Four Prisoners and four prison guards were killed when a prisoner over powered a guard and seized his gun in Pul-i-Charkhi jail in Kabul. Afghan Police re-took control of the prison after a 12 hours gun battle. (AFP)

All militia fighters in Mazar-Sharif, loyal to Gen. Atta Mohammad and Gen. Rashid Dostum, have been disarmed and demobilized under the DDR programme. (Reuters)

20th December
Afghan security forces arrested four Taliban fighters in Khost including two commanders, Mulla Noor Mohammad and Mulla Mullai Goloom. (AFP)

21st December
Four Afghan soldiers, a suspected Taliban fighter and a civilian were killed, when Taliban attacked a military check-post in Kandahar. (AP)

Two US soldiers were wounded when their patrol was attacked by suspected Taliban fighters in Zabul Province. (AP)

25th December
Afghan security forces captured ten Taliban fighters in a raid on their hideout in Kandahar. (AP)

Fifty Georgian troops returned from Afghanistan after completing their peacekeeping mission, ending Georgian participation in Afghan Peacekeeping forces. (NNI)

Unidentified gunmen killed an NGO worker and injured another, when they opened fire on the NGO office in Kandahar. (PPI)

26th December
Suspected Taliban fighters attacked a convoy of 20 Afghan Army trucks in Farah Province. One driver was killed and another was injured in the attack while two drivers are missing. (Reuters)

The UN disarmament programme for former militia fighters started in Kandahar City. (Online)

29th December
A convoy of eight passenger vehicles was looted by armed robbers on a road in Baghlan province. (NNI)

A US marine was injured when his vehicle hit an explosive device, setup by suspected Taliban fighters, in Kunar Province. (PPI)

Other News

1st December
Heavy rains and floods destroyed forty mud houses in Ali Chopan District of Balkh Province. (AFP)

2nd December
A US transport plane crashed southeast of Bamyan in Hindukush Mountains, killing all six people on board including three member American crew and three US soldiers. (AP)

4th December
Jalalabad-Torkham Road construction has been stopped due to the on-going US Army operation in Nangarhar. (Online)

6th December
An unidentified aircraft sprayed poppy crops in eastern Afghan village of Nimla, despite opposition of Afghan Government of aerial spraying on poppy crops. Both US and UK, who are leading antinarcotics efforts in Afghanistan have denied involvement in aerial spraying. An Afghan government delegation has visited the area and is investigating the matter. (PPI)

Around 45 female prisoners in Kabul prison are protesting what they call their unlawful detention. The burned their blankets and shattered the window panes during the protests. (NNI)

7th December
Afghan authorities plan to convert the Tora Bora Cave complex, which served as a hideout for Osama Bin Ladin and his Al Qaeeda fighters, into a tourist site. (NNI)

11th December
Afghanistan will hold its first-ever national census before parliamentary elections, planned for April 2005. (APP)

UNHCR has signed an agreement with UNAIDS for strengthening its AIDS prevention and awareness programme for Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. (NNI)

15th December
US Army has acknowledged that eight prisoners have died in its custody in Afghanistan since 2002. (Online)

17th December
A US Army helicopter crashed near Shindand in Herat. Both pilots were injured in the incident. (Agencies)

Afghan Anti-Narcotics Task Force raided drug labs in Achin district of Nangarhar and confiscated 15 tonnes of opium. (AP)

18th December
The Afghan Government in collaboration with the Organization for Social Services for Afghan Women will establish a shelter for female victims of Domestic violence. The centre will be built in Mazar-i-Sharif. (APP)

UNICEF in collaboration with NGOs and local communities has demobilized 3,998 child soldiers in fifteen provinces of Afghanistan since February 2004. (NNI)

19th December
Iran has frozen four accounts of Afghan militia leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar in Iranian Banks. Hekmatyar has joined Al Qaeeda and Taliban fighters in their fight against Afghan Government and US forces. (APP)

21st December
UNHCR will suspend its voluntary repatriation programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan from December 27, 2004. The Programme will resume on March 1, 2005. (The News)

Afghan police arrested an Afghan man at Kabul International Airport and recovered 8 kilograms of heroin from his possession. (AFP)

25th December
Two hundred and fifty Afghan civil servants completed basic computer training in Jalalabad. The training course was funded by UNDP. (PPI)

29th December
The Afghan Interior Ministry has chosen a new National Anthem for Afghanistan through a competition announced last year. (Online)

30th December
The newly repaired national museum of Afghanistan opened its first exhibition in thirteen years. (NNI)

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News Summary for February-2004

Aid and Economic Development

8th February
Under $1.5 million deal, an Indian company, Mahindra Defence Systems, will supply 80 Sports Utility Vehicles and 40 jeeps to Afghan National Army. (Agencies)

9th February
According to Afghan Finance Minister, Afghanistan will seek $28.5 billion in aid from donors during donor's conference to be held on March 30-31 at Berlin. (Online)

10th February
President Karzai has asked for more international help to combat the narcotics production in Afghanistan. He was addressing the International Conference on Counter-Narcotics in Afghanistan at Kabul. (AP)

12th February
USAID has announced plans to construct 1300 kilometers of road in different parts of Afghanistan. The roads will connect provincial capitals with the ring road and district headquarters with each other. (NNI)

13th February
UK will provide $128 million to Afghanistan for anti drug campaign next year. (Agencies)

17th February
India has provided Rs. 600 million to Afghanistan for restoring its telecommunications network. (PPI)

18th February
The Government of Pakistan has started the process to build two high schools in Afghanistan. One school will be built in Jalalabad and the other at Charikar. (The News)

21st February
The Punjab National Bank of India will open a branch in Kabul by June 2004. (AFP)

USAID will grant $4.9 million for 'Learning for Life' health focused adult literacy programme in Afghanistan. (Online)

22nd February
The New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) at Bamyan has rebuilt the university in Bamyan, which was destroyed during war in 2001. (NNI)

The US Army established a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), consisting some 100 soldiers, in Asadabad. (PPI)

25th February
Japan will provide a total of $9.25 million in emergency grant for rebuilding Afghanistan. (Online)

UNICEF will hand over $283,000 worth of office and training supplies to the Afghan Ministry of Health. (PPI)

Pakistan has deleted 14 items from negative list under Afghan Transit Trade agreement. (The News)

26th February
Life for Relief and Development, an NGO, has distributed more than 400 wheelchairs among the disabled individuals and organizations in several provinces of Afghanistan. (NNI)

28th February
Afghanistan has signed an agreement for rebuilding the Kabul International Airport with the assistance of NATO, World Bank and International Civil Aviation Organization. The project is estimated to cost between $40 to $60 million. (AFP)

Political Developments

2nd February
Afghan President Karzai rejected the allegations that he has changed the text of the constitution which was approved by the Constitutional Loya Jirga. (Reuters)

5th February
The spokesman for US forces in Afghanistan has invited low ranking Taliban fighters to join the peace process in Afghanistan. (NNI)

President Karzai has replaced the governors of Baghdis and Farah provinces and Police chiefs of five northern provinces. (NNI)

6th February
Afghan government has appointed a new intelligence chief – Amrullah Saleh – replacing Arif Sarwary. (Agencies)

President Karzai has pardoned Padshah Khan Zadran the rebel commander from Paktia, who was captured in Pakistan and handed over to Afghan authorities. Padshah Khan will be handed over to the elders of his Zadran tribe, who have assured that he will not take part in anti government activities. (Reuters)

9th February
UN Secretary General has appointed Jean Arnault as acting head of the UN mission in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

18th February
Afghan First Lady, Zinat Karzai, registered as a voter in Kabul in a bid to encourage Afghan women to participate in the upcoming general elections. (NNI)

19th February
EU's commissioner for external affairs has said that despite security concerns, Afghan elections are likely to be held on schedule in June 2004. (AFP)

20th February
A seminar to apprise the people about the new Afghan constitution was held in Kandahar, attended by Afghan officials and representatives of NGOs. (PPI)

21st February
Taliban have warned that any Afghan talking part or voting in Afghan general elections will bring 'displeasing consequences'. (Online)

27th February
US Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld met with senior Afghan officials and US military officers in Kandahar and Kabul and discussed the security situation. (Agencies)

28th February
Iran has reopened its consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif after more than five years. (NNI)

Security Matters

2nd February
Holland is sending 6 Apache attack Helicopters and 135 soldiers to Afghanistan to join the ISAF international peacekeeping force. (AFP)

5th February
The headquarters of the US led coalition forces in Afghanistan has been shifted from Bagram to Kabul. (Agencies)

Two rockets were fired at Kabul by unidentified attackers, causing no damage or casualties. (Agencies)

6th February
Tear Fund – an international NGO – has suspended its operations in Kandahar due to security concerns. (Online)

Three Taliban fighters were killed in a gun battle with Afghan soldiers in Helmand. (AFP)

8th February
20 people were killed and 40 injured in fighting between local militia commanders in Badakhshan province. (AFP)

10th February
A Canadian General – Gen. Gortz Gliemeroth – has taken over the command of ISAF in Afghanistan. (AFP)

French Army has opened a military college in Kabul to train officers of the Afghan National Army. (SANA)

11 February
An Afghan court sentenced to death two men accused of killing a French UNHCR worker last year in Ghazni. Both men have filed an appeal against the sentence. (AFP)

12th February
Deputy Intelligence Chief of Khost was shot dead by an unidentified attacker, who later blew himself up when soldiers tried to capture him. (Agencies)

The governor of Kunar escaped unharmed when a remote controlled device was detonated near his vehicle. (AP)

14th February
An Afghan soldier and a shopkeeper were killed and six people were injured when a bomb exploded in a government military post in Khost. (Agencies)

Three persons were killed in factional fighting at Kunduz. (Agencies)

The US led coalition forces in Afghanistan are planning to create a 'National Guard' comprising of militia fighters from various groups, to beef up security until Afghan National Army is fully established. (NNI)

15th February
One US soldier was killed and nine injured when their vehicle hit a land mine in Ghazni. (PPI)

A contingent of Macedonian soldiers has left for Kabul to join the peacekeeping mission of ISAF. (NNI)

16th February
Four Afghan employees of OMAR demining agency were shot dead by unknown assailants, while traveling from Farah to Herat. (Agencies)

1500 militiamen from rival factions have been disarmed in Mazar-e-Sharif under UN sponsored DDR programme. (PPI)

17th February
US military has captured 40 suspected Taliban fighters, including two commanders, in Oruzgan province. (AFP)

The Dutch parliament has approved a proposal for expansion of Netherlands military contribution to peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

19th February
Poland has gifted hundreds of weapons, including mortars, artillery and rounds to Afghan National Army. (AFP)

23rd February
A helicopter carrying workers from US construction firm Louis Berger crashed in Kandahar after coming under small arms fire, killing the Australian pilot and injuring an American passenger. Taliban Have claimed responsibility for the attack. (APP)

26thFebruary
A fourth peacekeeping contingent form Albania, comprising 22 soldiers, has left for Kabul to join ISAF. (Agencies)

A US soldier was wounded when the vehicle he was traveling hit a landmine in Oruzgan. (Online)

27th February
Five Afghan employees of a local NGO – Sanayee Development Foundation (SDF) – were killed by unknown attackers on a road north of Serobi. (Reuters)

The Czech parliament has approved sending 100 soldiers to Afghanistan where they will join the US led coalition forces in hunt for Al Qaeeda and Taliban. (Agencies)

29thFebruary
Two rockets were fired at US military base at Khost, without causing any damage or injury. (Agencies)

Other News

2nd February
A group of residents of thee US towns – Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington – has raised $20,000 to provide immunization vaccines to children in Sar-e-Pul in Afghanistan. (NNI)

8th February
The condition of former Afghan king Zahir Shah, who was airlifted to New Delhi for treatment, is stable. (Agencies)

9th February
UNICEF is launching a disarmament programme for child soldiers in Afghanistan. The programme will be launched in Badakhshan and will benefit 2000 child soldiers associated with various militias. Later the programme will be expanded to other parts of the country. (Agencies)

13th February
UNHCR will start shifting back almost 60,000 Pushtoon IDPs to Faryab for their rehabilitation. They moved out of Faryab after the fall of Taliban regime. (Online)

16th February
UNHCR has organized 'Go and See' visits for representatives of IDPs and refugees from Faryab. They will visit their home towns and see for themselves whether conditions are right for their return. (NNI)

19th February
Seven Afghan women have signed up in a US sponsored police training force at Kabul. (PPI)

20th February
159 child soldiers, aged between 14 and 18 years, were demobilized by UNICEF in Kunduz. (AFP)

According to a UN survey, last year Afghanistan produced the highest amount of opium since 1999 – an estimated 3,600 tons or three quarters of total global supply. (PPI)

21st February
Former king Zahir Shah has been discharged from a New Delhi hospital where he was undergoing treatment for intestinal problem. (NNI)

25th February

According to the Deputy Governor of Badakhshan province, 300 children have been killed by an unknown respiratory disease in the province. (Agencies)

29th February

UNHCR will restart its voluntary repatriation programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan from March 1, 2004. (APP)

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) has shown concern over the security situation in Afghanistan after the murder of five SDF workers by unidentified attackers. (Online)

ACBAR

News Summary for March-2004

Aid and Economic Development

4th March

Pakistan handed over 35 trucks to Afghan government as first consignment out of 200 trucks announced by Pakistani Prime Minister during his visit to Kabul. (NNI)

UK announced £500 million assistance for Afghanistan over five years. The money will be used for reconstruction, counter-narcotics and conflict prevention. (AFP)

5th March

China will help Afghanistan rebuild a major irrigation project near Kabul, under a contract signed by the two countries. (NNI)

The UK based company, Livingston has reached a deal with Afghan Wireless Communication Company (AWCC) for sale of $500,000 worth of RF and Microwave testing equipment. (NNI)

9th March

European Commission has approved € 8 million to help fund cost of the Afghan general elections. (NNI)

10th March

Afghan Finance Minister has said that Afghanistan needs $27.5 billion for reconstruction over the next seven years. (AFP)

The Afghan Agriculture Ministry organized a three day conference in Kabul for discussing the problems faced by farmers in Afghanistan. (Online)

11th March

UAE based International Petroleum Corporation (IPC) has signed an agreement with Afghan government. Under the agreement IPC will invest $231 million in Afghanistan over nine years. (NNI)

17th March

Afghanistan has lifted ban on import of chicken from Pakistan. The ban was imposed in January following discovery of chicken with Bird flu in Pakistan. (APP)

18th March

According to the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Pakistan will spend $20 million during the current financial year for reconstruction of Afghanistan. (APP)

India has provided an English teacher for training local English teachers in Pul-i-Khumri. (NNI)

19th March

USA will give another $1 billion in aid to Afghanistan during the current financial year. This was announced by the US Foreign Secretary during his visit to Afghanistan. (Online)

Japan has announced a $99 million aid package for building roads and purchase of equipment for universities in Afghanistan. (AFP)

21st March

Japan has announced that it will contribute another $24.5 million to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has announced a new project for training 27,000 Afghan women poultry production techniques for improvements household incomes and food security in the country. (Agencies)

23rd March

India will construct 270 kilometer road in southwestern Afghanistan, costing 750 million Indian Rupees. (Online)

27th March

USAID will provide $1 million to UN managed Civilian Conservation Corps programme. Under the programme hundreds of thousands of trees will be planted in Kabul and on the hills around Kabul. (NNI)

28th March

According to a US fact sheet issued in Washington, USA has provided $4.2 billion in assistance to Afghanistan since 2001.